Mr. Robert E Gard;
Edmonton, Alberta,

Dear Sir:-

Just a note to say I received your Nov. 30 letter last night. One of our family is going to town today so am hurrying this 1883-1885 stuff away to you.

Must go to town again soon and finish up - even these same years are not finished; having to see several more 1883 settlers.

What do you think of the material for those years? Little Red Deer was an older settlement than Innisfail; it is 6 miles west of I, the later place coming from 1890 to 1900 in earnest. Will fill in (?) dates later to you.

Have 80 firsts - first school, church, Post-office & its master, railroad, newspaper &c.c.. Yours truly, Lillian A. Riste.

In 1882, Sandy Fraser, well known to several old-timers, located on the land later owned by Mr. Alfred Carter and still later owned by the Duke of Sutherland.

In the early summer of 1883, three Scotchmen could be seen wending their way from the Bow River, near the present site of Calgary, North on the trail to the Saskatchewan River at Fort Edmonton. They had come to Fort Calgary with the construction train.

The leader of this courageous band from Glascow, Scotland was the late James Brown. He was accompanied by Wm. Mc. Phee and James Mc. Craigie. All were young men in the flush of young

manhood – quite enthusiastic and capable of making good farmers in a new land.

They were enjoying prairie chicken and wild duck dinners all the way on the trail.

Mc. Phee & Mc. Craigie moved on farther north but James Brown and his 16 year old sister (now Mrs. David Sinclair) stayed on from Oct. 12 – 1883, in what is now Little Red Deer District just west of what was then called Poplar Grove, (now Innisfail.)

Mrs. David Sinclair has the honor of being the first white woman to come into what is now Innisfail District. (She still lives here with her husband, Mr. David Sinclair, both doing their own work in their comfortable town home.)

In the Spring of 1884, Mr. James Brown moved onto

the farm so long occupied by him & his family west of Innisfail. That same year, his parents, Mr. & Mrs. John Brown & his brother John, came in and stayed.

These early settlers met long strings of carts, Indian wagons, prairie schooners carrying furs from Edmonton and saw just as many of the same kinds of "prairie trains" coming north with goods from Fort Calgary. Supplies of food and equipment traded for those valuable furs from the far north land. Those carts, (drawn by from 1 to 3 or 4 oxen, lumbering along) were all built of wood alone, and could be heard squealing and whining along — without any grease on the wooden spindles in wooden wheels.

The traders carts were driven by Indians and breeds who enjoyed the trees of our locality, and the numerous little lakes.

Poplar grove (later named Innisfail) was a favorite camping ground.

The first rebellion was in 1885.

A French Canadian, Tom Duenel and an ex-mountie, Jack Mc. Cormick, with ~~his~~ 2 of his young brothers from Toronto came next.

Also John Cowan & a young man, named Hooley settled near the fork of the River.

This same year, '85, the log house was built in a large spruce grove that was always known as "the Spruces."

Here the mail from Calgary to Edmonton and return was left. And from here Mr. Brown, Sr. could

be seen walking from Little Red Deer to get the mail for his district.

That same year of '85 the Stony Indians often visited the settlers of the Little Red Deer settlement, stating emphatically that they were not on the war path for they were John Mc Dougalls' Indians and were desirous of trading furs for provisions.

They used to ask for flour among other supplies. One Indian told Mrs. Simpson, "You, Little White Woman give me good flour. One Big White Woman give me wheat skins" (meaning bran.) (While all the time "Little White Woman" had given him only shorts, not flour like she was using.)

One woman of the settlements gave a squaw the baked beans left from

their own dinner. The Indians ate greedily. Then the squaw took the red kerchief from her head, wrapped the beans in that and stuffed it into the bosom of her dress to keep for next meal."

(We wonder if that was the example women copied of putting their handkerchiefs in the bosom of their dresses?)

When the Indians asked Indians how far they had come the old Indians would put up 2 fingers and say, "2 sleeps" meaning they had spent 2 nights on their journey.

The settlers enjoyed a wonderful winter of 1883-1884 - men being able to continue building operations till after Christmas

and several short periods during all that winter.

Coaches for mail &c&c carried their sleigh runners on top of their rigs until March, when the wheels occupied the upper place during March & part of April.

3 of our late citizens, well known to us, who fought in the Rebellion were Mr. Westland, Mr. Lauder & Mr. Archer

The Mounted Police were located at Red Deer Crossing.

The Indians lived on deer meat of which there was a plentiful supply.

The white man lived on prairie chickens, partridge and wild ducks, also abundant.

From Little Red Deer settlement, 2 men would go to Calgary to procure 6 months supplies for the district. One year, Mr. Sinclair and another neighbor went in early autumn, leaving their crops uncut, as yet. While gone, a snow came, not much, but enough to worry 2 farmers, for was this not their "first crop?"

It always took the men 2 days to go down, and 3 days ~~to come back~~ for the return trip, besides the time spent in Calgary, buying the supplies.

When these 2 men returned in about 2 weeks, Mr. Sinclair was pleasantly surprised and felt himself a rich man, for there stood his entire first crop of 10 acres of oats in the nicest looking stooks he has ever seen, before or since.

Two of his neighbors, Mr. Harry Scott and Mr. Alex. Davidson had cut it all with sythes and bound and stooked it all "by hand."

Later, men used the "cradle" to cut grain, still later the mower; Always binding the sheaves by hand and stooking

Mr. Moses Wildman went around with a good, stout flail threshing all his neighbor's grain crops.

Later, the tread-mill was introduced. Still later, the small seperator, the large seperator, while now, the combine is in our midst, thus marking the progress made.

Those old-timers, in a reminiscent mood, spoke of "those good old days! boy! Those were the good old days!

Happy days! Neighborly days! "Oh boy!" "Oh boy!" And they looked years younger while they related these incidents to me. "Making history" and not realizing it way back there in 1883, and on up to the full settlement of "Poplar Grove, later to become "Emerson."

Blizzards were enough to frighten even the stoutest hearts of our early settlers; in one of those blizzard of early days, one man, Mr. ? was found frozen to death. He was wrapped in his saddle blanket and had crept into a willow clump, after having tied his horse a short ways away. Both met death in that blizzard.

Prairie fires, too, played
havoc with hay, wooden
posts and rail fences.
One evening, Mr. Sinclair
had just put his cows
into the log barn when
he saw a smoke over
by Alex. Davidson's
building. He called Mrs.
Sinclair and after ex-
plaining that he must
run to help check that
prairie fire, he ran all
that 3 miles to help. All
the men of the settlement
always did that same
helpful way. Mrs Sinclair
ran to the barn, dropped
all the chains from the
cow's necks, drove them out
of the barn, closed the
door and rushed to her
log house and waited.
She saw those cows run
toward that rolling fire
and smoke until they
got to the 20 acres of

plowed land, where they bunched up and milled around on that bare ground until long after the fire passed by. She and the buildings were protected by wide "fire gaurds" like all the settlers kept around their buildings.

No Doctor was closer than Calgary at that time; the first Dr. in the Poplar Grove district was Dr. George. The first veterenary surgeon was Dr. Lauder.

There was no registering of births or marriages at that time.

The first cemetery was duly dedicated in the year (?) with an impressive ceremony.

The first baby in all these early days was James Mc. Cormick, having

first visited the Little Red Deer District in April, 1885.

The record white child born was George A. Sinclair, in September, 1888.

"Innisfail & Districts."

Mr. Glanville was Innisfail's first minister.
Mr. Sing was second minister - the church was built under him.

Dr. George was the first Doctor, he lived in the big brick house now owned and occupied by Mrs. J. KEMP. Before he came, no Dr. was closer than Calgary, 90 miles S. of I.. This brick house of Dr. Geo. was built by an old English contractor who lived across the road, east of it. All materials were brought from Calgary by ox-cart until 1901 when the Rail-Road came to Innisfail — the last of the materials were brot. on the freight train. Dr. George had a family of 14 children. Mrs. George was an aristocrat. Mr. George came from a long line of Doctors — for 15 generations. The waiting room for patients was entirely papered with postage stamps. Dr. George was an extensive and well known stamp collector. Dr. George had servants — a maid, a Mother's help, Chore boy & a cook. The house had a servants entrance

Mrs. Kemp, the present owner of the big brick house was a Miss Lundy. The Lundy's came in March and found snow in all corners & much mud and yet they spent the first Sunday picking crocuses - all they could carry home.

Mr. Norman Stiles circulated a petition for a post-office, got it through & became Innisfail's first Post-master.

Regina was our first seat of gov't. It was the capital of the North West Territories - too far away for Poplar Grove to register births, marriages or deaths.

There were no bridges, yet, in the early 1890's, nor yet in 1898 & there were no bridges, to speak of, over rivers - so, on acct. of this, there was much hardship. So many "rainy years, caused the rivers to swell. When high they were swift.

Several of the settlers had work, helping to build the large bridges. The first bridge, at one place, washed away in a flood, before it was ever finished & before any one ever crossed it. Little Red

Deer is called a creek, but it can become very large - like a mad river - when rains continue for awhile. That first bridge that was washed out had piles 20 ft. apart but trees 40 feet long were rushed down in the flood & broke the piles away. Men on the job began taking planks & supplies off the bridge when flood began but could not save much - it came too suddenly.

Really there were no roads, the trails were corrugated, some places for long distances

Our first trains were mixed trains, part freight train & part passenger cars. 2 a week, if weather permitted, & often hours late. At the very first it took 4 hours to come on train from Calgary to Red Deer City.

The settlers had dances in the homes and in the school houses.

No factory-made sleighs, just home-made sleighs and stone-boats. Went on stone-boats

to Dances & Church.

A bad bush fire occured in Little Red Deer district in May, 1906. It kept on one side of the trail. But at night sparks from a burning stump, swept by a rising wind, set fire to the other side of the trail. Got into a spruce grove. Then the fire jumped the river from tops of the spruce trees to a spruce grove on the other side of the river. The burning spruce were 50 ft. high & the flames leaped 20 ft. higher. Awful sound and sight! 2 full sections of land were burned over, 1/4 section of it was well wooded, too, but all trees on that 1/4 Sect. were burned off.

Land anywhere could be bought for $3 an acre.

There were no barbed-wire fences. Just ∧ fences or rail fences. It was hard to get money to buy spikes for rail fences let alone barbed wire for fences.

Banks came in 1905 after the R. R. came thro'.

There was an influx of Americans, then, too.

The farmers used to take anything they could spare to Calgary to trade or sell to obtain groceries. Eggs were of the least value. But grain, animals, alive or butchered, cream, wool &c. were their "main-stay."

One farmer had nothing but hay, so hay he took. A large load, too. One night, he stopped at a farm house, one of the 6 stopping places on way to Calgary, for the night. In the morning, what was his surprise to see his wagon surrounded by cattle, the hay all eaten up & the hay-rack up-set. He was, indeed, "much purturbed and almost discouraged." But the keeper of the Inn explained, at the

breakfast table, that he had several good hay stacks of very good hay, and pointed out one of exceptional value, on a hill-side near by. The farmer from Innisfail district was some surprised but since the man he was staying with seemed sincerely sorry & helpful, he consented to take the hay, & try some time to pay for it. So the 2 men righted the rack, loaded up a "good, big load of hay" & went to Calgary. He noted, too, that it was better, finer hay than his own slough hay had been. He sold it for a good price & bought his 6 months' supplies & returned, stopping with that same farmer, again. Then, at the breakfast table he heard another story. That bunch of cattle belonged to a very wealthy rancher, some distance away & so

did that hay he took to Calgary. The rancher had his hired men "put up hay" all over the prairie, in the best places. He let his large herds of cattle roam all winter, knowing they'd get enough to eat, but not of his own stacks of hay which were well fenced, always. So — the rancher's cattle had eaten the northern farmer's hay; the farmer had hauled a load of the rancher's hay. Fair trade. All a joke on the rancher played unbeknown ~~to~~ Bob the farmer from Innisfail.

Travellers sometimes took a wagon box off their wagon, turned it upside down, & slept under that at night, when going to Calgary — nearly 100 miles South.

In the 1900's it was difficult to make a living except by selling cream and butter. Several of the pioneers worked on the construction gang when the Railroad was being put through. At one time the workers got a break from regular work. They found a dead cow on the tracks, that had been killed by the train presumably. The men took a description of the cow, of all brands and all markings for their record, then buried the cow, as per orders from the R. R. Company. Several Indians watched this proceeding. When the burial was over the men went on to inspect the other six miles of tracks. On their return in the evening they found the cow had been dug up by the Indians for they saw it strung up in a tree around which several squaws were busy taking the hide off. The squaws made leather from all hides. The Indians thought nothing of all this way for indeed it was meat for many a day ahead for them & their usual band of dogs.

The settlers worked on the R. R. for 50 cents a day.

6 months' wage for many a good man was $100, even on a farm.

Many farmers milked 10 – 15 cows. Calves sold for 2 – 2½ cents per pound, live weight. Several Little Red Deer women had contracts for butter, the year around. Some made 70 lbs. butter, weekly. Mrs. Alex Davidson, Mrs. Mc. Dougall, Mrs. John Brown, and Mrs. David Sinclair had continual contracts ~~for butter~~ with the C. & E. Rail-road Co. for all the butter they could make. The lady on the Gillingham Ranch had a continual contract with the Hudson Bay Company for all her butter. Little Red Deer was an outstanding dairy Settlement.

Later: Twice weekly a cream hauler drove up to your door — took a sample of your cream for testing purposes, then would pour all your cream into his wooden Vats holding other farmer's cream & trundle away over all kinds of roads to the creamery. Little wonder it was "churned" at the time of his arrival in town. But the creamery made "prize taking" butter, any — way.

There was no "Special Grade" given as we know it now, yet many made a good living at it, anyway.

When, a little later, the packers made a good offer for beef cattle, several farmers went in for beef cattle, also. The David Sinclair family went in for & had the first pure-bred Shorthorns. Mr. Sinclair bought a bull calf from the Van Horne Farm & paid $500 for it as a yearling. In 3 years, that bull was the Champion Bull in the Calgary Spring Bull Show. Mr. Sinclair took many other prizes in that show & in many to follow. He was well known far & near, as a breeder of Shorthorn Cattle. Mr. Sinclair's first pure-bred cow was named LAVADALE — well known in those days. Mr. Sinclair's farm was named the "Willow Bank Farm." It was on this farm that the son was raised who later became the famous Dr. R. Sinclair of the University of Alberta, at Edmonton, Alberta, our Capitol City.

The Sullivans, north of the B. R. D. river had Hereford cattle, first. Now, there are many raised in L. R. D. district. Aberdeen Angus, also.

Marquis Wheat and Banner Oats were the best for the Districts, here, at that early date.

In 1899, it is said, one man traded oats for 16¢ per bushel, for groceries, after he hauled it to Innisfail.

Clydsdale horses were Jim Brown's prize takers. Many firsts came his way. Some teams sold for $600 a team. They were real horses.

One time 2 men, Mr. Don Syla and a neighbor attempted to cross the Little Red Deer River in a wagon. The wagon capsized, Mr. Syla swam ashore but the neighbor was drowned. His body was found one month later with $600 in his leather pocket book, as good as gold. He had been on his way to Jim Brown's to buy a team of those famous Clydsdale horses. Incidentally, his wife used that money to take her back to her former home in Oklahoma.

Cheap land on easy terms — no wonder that in such fertile soil, the pioneers made good.

Buffalo trails were common sights; they always went to water holes or salt licks or sometimes to alkali licks. Many times the cattle, the buffaloes, & the antelopes grazed together.

Much of our land around here is such rich soil, it has been farmed for 40 years without summer fallow or rest. Farmers have used rotation of

crops instead of summer-fallow.

Sons and daughters are still farming the land their fathers farmed in the early 90's. Some of the steady names in Little Red Deer District, are: Sinclair, MacDougall, Brown, Duncan, Edgar, Scott, Scarlett, Davidson, Tester, Miller, Newsham, Wright, Robinson, Ross, Stiggings, &c.c.

In the early 90's, when the Americans came in to settle, immigration was on, for sure.

Wild geese & ducks were so plentiful in those days that in the evening one could see hundreds feeding on the settler's stooks. Prairie chickens could be seen by the hundreds on the fences. Deer and an occasional Moose were welcome.

Frost was one of the worst enemies — second to too much water — Those "wet years" were many. Land was so wet in spring, one could scarcely get onto the land to work it up for seeding, which was done by hand — broadcast, then harrowed in. Crops were taken off by mower or sythe. It was taken up and bound by hand into sheaves and stooked.

Many times pemican has been found. Some still have good specimens — where red berries, something quite green, fibres of meat, and a few saskatoons, all in natural colors, are to be plainly discerned.

Some Indian arrow heads, good shape & in perfect condition can be seen in some homes, found on their farms. Some large bones can be found even yet, now turned to real stone. The Indians say the old Indians used to fight with them as weapons. When asked if they were stones, they laughed & said," No. No. They are bones of animals — petrified. Put into the sandy soil & left, bones will become petrified even yet," they say.

[several boys of our day put some long leg bones of a horse into the sandy soil and are still waiting for them to turn to stone.]

Many have mounted wild animal's heads & birds. Some I have seen are: the Golden Eagle, Bald-headed Eagle, large owls, deer, Moose, Elk, & even one pinto pony's head. Grouse, pheasant, duck, goose, & one speckled rooster, this last was mounted 40 years ago & is in a good state of preservation, yet.

Innisfail once boasted a summer-resort. What is now known as mud lake is situated in a bowl between surrounding hills which are covered with poplar trees. Several had cabins out there & resorted to this cool, restful place in summer's sweltering heat. The Millers and Aspinalls were two

of those several lucky families. There were at least 2 boats & a diving board. Swimming was indulged in by many from town, also.

The first car was owned by Mr. Lundy. He has a son & a daughter still living in Limington. That first car was a rubber-tired, chain drive, high wheel — one seater. Some called it a "gas buggy." which it resembled — steered by a T tee affair — not a steering wheel — as now. It was a real luxury in those days. Buckboards, wagons & sleighs (home-made) & stone-boats.

The first rubber tired buggy was owned by Mr. Newt Parsons, it was also a luxury and real smart.

Our first newspaper was the "Free Lance". One of our citizens, Mr. Mc. Arthur, states that he took the first copy of it in 1893 and always has taken that newsy-paper.

Cattle were driven to market where the farmer had to take 5 % off for shrinkage. Hogs sold were always dressed before sold. In 1893, steers sold for 3½ ¢. with 5 % shrinkage. There were no poultry except chickens. Eggs were not sold just traded for groceries at stores.

Horse Shoe Lake is the shape of a horse shoe & why is it called Horse Shoe Lake? Or is because of its shape? It is called Davy Lake on maps. And

Why Davy Lake? I do not know. Horse Shoe Lake is 300 400 acres.

Horse Shoe Lake farmers later took their whole milk to the Knee Hill Valley store to have it seperated. Sold cream & then took skimmed milk home. Or some kept both cream & milk at home and made butter to sell.

And why Knee Hill Valley's name? Some say this prominent hill is the shape of one's knee. Knee Hill Valley store started with $10 worth of goods. Then Fawdry and Rogers bot. it & enlarged its capacity & stock.

Mr. Henry Barkemeyer shipped his first hogs to Calgary. He shipped hogs to Pat Burns for 11 years, straight.

Innisfail boasted a library in 1902, which had 500 books in it. It was housed in the Simpson house with Miss Simpson as librarian without a salary. The membership was $1 a year. The promoters were F. M. Rogers, Mrs. Mowbray, Mrs. P. J. Bourchier, Miss Simpson, P. L. Grasse.

Jesse Stewart came from Africa during the Boer War and later became stewart, petty officer, in our big Canadian Navy of 3 ships.

Mr. A. Aspinall is a veteran of the Boer War.

Paplar grove was changed to Innisfail by the C. & E. Rail-road when it opened its depot here in the year 1891.

All of Innisfail was North of the R. R. Tracks till about that time. Town lots were offered free on the South side of the tracks if any business man would move his store or place of business over on the South side. All this was after it was surveyed in 1901. Men and teams got busy and moved many ~~places~~ buildings.

Before 1901, Innisfail was all timber with only paths and wagon trails, sheltering a shack here & there.

In 1895 there was a bear shot among the homes on the North Side.

Mr. A. Aspinall was a member of the North West Mounted Police & has a photo of himself mounted on a fine specimen of horse flesh.

Mr. Aspinall says a good mount must have a long springy fetlock -- so he can spring as he travels. Not a stumpy, short fetlock. That is bad.

Many travelled among these hills & over muddy roads on horse-back, among the farmers. Some farmers had fast horses. Some had race horses.

Dr. Lauder — a vetrenary surgeon, was apt to pull a tooth for some one who was suffering with a bad case of tooth-ache.

Dr. George has a son who is a mail-clerk on the C. P. R. now, I am told.

In 1885, "The Old Edmonton Trail" went through what is now the stock-yards & the Massie-Harris Bldg., down the hill past the Kressell Residence. That "draw" was so flat it was necessary to corduroy it for some distance, there, with willows. Some years later it was seen that some of those willows were petrified.

Our first cemetery was located on the N. W. corner of the N. W. 1/4 section of 9--35--28--West of the fifth---1½ miles south of the town site. That is the farm now owned by Wm. Clifford. His nephew, Mr. Kinsella lived on that 1/4 section---in 1944, yet. The trip, way out there was almost impossible over the big snow banks in winter & through deep mud in summer. So the cemetery just west of town was procured and all but one or two bodies were taken up & moved to the new site.

The Currie Bros., store keepers, bought cream during cold weather, frozen solid, from farmers. Then cut it into squares, solid, to sell to customers in town.---1898.

About that time butter sold for 8¢ and eggs for 10¢ in 1898.

In 1901 When Mr. J. H. Mc. Arthur came to Innisfail it was so wet---could scarcely get to town.

Oklahoma School District was named Oklahoma because Dan Syla and a few others settled there, having migrated from the State of Oklahoma, in the U.S.A., 1902-3. The school was built and named in 1904. R.C. Speer was the first secretary-treasurer. Jackson Newsham was Sec.-Treas. from 1905. Oklahoma was a very "wet" district.

Many beavers made dams along the Little Red Deer River, and do yet.

The first survey for a rail-road was through the Manual Farm, intending to cross the Big Red Deer River there. But Mr. Gaetz of Red Deer influenced the Rail-road Company to keep it east of the Big Red Deer River and cross it farther North where Red Deer City now stands. That was done.

Years before, Mr. Jackson Newsham had seen a map in Manchester, England showing Cash City on the north side of the river across from where the first grading was done on the Manual farm, west of Innisfail. That short bit of grading is still on that farm.

That map showed Cash City on the north side of the B. R. D. river. Well, there was a Cash City Past-Office there from Sept. 1889 to Sept. 1891 according to a volumn of the Markerville poet, Mr. Stephan g. Stephanson. correspondence. [I have an acct. of that record.] Mr. Sage lived at that place, the saw mill, & he had a son, named Cash. Was it named for him or merely a coincidence? And that map was made in England years before the Rail-road came thro' at all or ever there was a Cash City Past-office.

At this Sage Saw mill were several 2 story buildings. It did a prosperous business, for awhile. Lumber was hauled from there to Calgary in 1890. Logs were floated down the river to this mill, but the river was too swift there to properly stop the logs so the mill (or was it another) was put down the river, farther, where a bend in it slowed down the speed of the waters.

There were very few binders, then. Fewer threshing machines. Mr. Moses Wildman flailed out all the grain for his neighbors. Jackson Newsham flailed out 1000 lbs. grass seed in 1899.

Little Red Deer Scholl is one of the very early ones in Alberta being No. 362. Hola School and Tindostoll schools are among the earliest, also.

A Co-op. Creamery was built in 1894 and 1895. In 1900 it was second largest in Western Canada. It made 240000 lbs. of butter yearly—1902—1905. Only one other creamery in Western Canada was larger. The largest creamery was at Bridge, Saskatchewan. That butter and cream business of the farmers was their main means of living. Some sold fat beef stuff—they ranched.

Near town, several gas tractors were acquired—Mr. Henry Barkemeyer got a Hart Parr and Mr. August Goldstrum got an International. Tractors came into Little Red Deer District about this time. Steam engines had been used before. These gas tractors were Imported into Innisfail. Mr. Jackson Newsham was one of the first owners. From then on, there was more land broken and more grain raised and more elevators built; before, only one elevator in Innisfail.

In 1901 When Mr. J. H. Mc. arthur came to Innisfail it was so wet — could scarcely get to town. It rained every day for 2 or 3 months at a time. They had log shacks with mud roofs. He says it rained in the house long after it quit outside — drip! drip!! drip!!!

Bachelors were sometimes not such good cooks. One said to the men working for him at threshing time, "The bread is poor. If it wont hurt you, I'll be glad. One thing is sure, you can't hurt it."

Cattle buyers had to ford creeks & rivers that were swollen with the recent rains. They carried "slickers" at all times.

Cattle men and ranchers had to "dip" for mange, Several of the neighbors helping making a "bee" of it.

There was not much grain raised east of town, at first: Mostly ranching. There was so much good grass & many lakes. Ranching conditions were ideal.

The C. and E. held every alternate section of land. All even numbered Sections were for home steads.

In 1905-6-7 settlers began to come in & ranching was crowded out, to a large extent.

In 1902 a Local Improvement District was organized by the Government.

The first taxes were $2 a quarter section.

In 1903 the first school house for Milverton was built. Had only 6 months school. Homesteads, only, were taxed at that time, I am told. C. & E. Land was tax free.

Roads and trails through the bush were awful — muddy, almost impassable. From Milverton there were 2 trails to town. "No matter which trail you took, you wished you had taken the other one". One time Mr. Mc. Arthur started to town with 7 bushels of spuds on his democrat, to go to Innisfail. The mud was so deep he couldn't keep going. So he left the potatoes at a farm house along the trail until the mud dried up. Even at that, he broke 2 whiffle-trees on his new democrat. He always took one day to go into Innisfail and one day to return home & only 20 miles to go.

Hay could be cut any place & farmers could put up as much as he wished — FREE.

As settlers (homesteaders) came in, schools were built. Only 5 or 6 children were required to get a grant from the Govt. to build one. School houses were used for public meetings, church & school purposes, and dances.

Keeping in mind the conditions of the roads -- think what a time Mr. Lundy (the first & only car owner) and Mr. Grasse had going and coming from the Milnerton Fair one year. The roads were awful & Mr. Grasse remarked that, "Motor cars are of little use in the mud." He had plenty of experience that day to speak with authority.

The Milnerton Fair was a real affair & a success for years. There were large herds of pure-breds. There were 600 and 700 people at these rural fairs -- 20 miles from a railroad. They offered $1,200 to $1,500 in prizes, each year. Mr. Duncan Marshall, of Olds, alway attended these fairs. Later, that gentleman became Minister of Agriculture in Edmonton Govt.. He was of help to the promoter of said Fair. The Women's Exhibits were good.

The Milverton Fair was always held on the "Three Hills Creek Flat."

The long grass was a danger in autumn for if, and when a prairie fire started, it was horrifying. When making all new roads a fire guard was plowed. All settlers surrounded their house, buildings & hay & straw stacks with a fire-guard. In case of fire, every man got on a horse & went to fight the dreaded and dreadful prairie fire.

A Mr. Cochraine came into this house for dinner, one day & finding he'd have to wait awhile for it, went out to burn a fire-guard around his buildings. [Instead of plowing one, mind you.] It got out of control & burned his house before dinner. He said, "I knew when the dinner was cooked but it was not eatable, at that." He was a new-comer and had seen no fire-guards made before.

There were no lazy people in those days, of our history.

Another man came in with the last load of his furniture to his homestead. He found his new house had burned

down in a big prairie fire that had swept over a large area of his chosen valley land. His piano had been left in town. Several trunks of clothing & bedding had been left at a neighbor's home where his family were staying temporarily. He was a very sorrowful man, that day. All they had to start up with now in ashes. But he stayed with it, & became a success, in spite of that "poor start."

Mr. Thurston was Milverton's first Post-Master.

Mr. Mc. Arthur was one of the first councilors of the new municipality that was formed east of Innisfail. The name of that municipality is Arthur - nearly his name.

Knee Hill Valley's first store-keeper and post-master was Mr. Wm. Gunston. That district's first Gov't. telephone lines came thro. about 1898, the rate being $2 and $2.50 per month.

In those days it was customary to pay your Doctor and Minister in goods - Cash was so scarce. It might be ¼ of beef,

part of a sheep, bags of vegetables - any would be acceptable.

$1 in real cash would buy more groceries than any man could carry home.

Things like sausages & fresh meats came from Calgary on the trains, every 2 or 3 days, according to the weather.

Mr. Tom Ellis was the first U.W.M.P. for Innisfail. He wrote a song — which was sung at about all the "affairs" in and around town for a long time. [am still trying to find this.]

In 1891 the Gillingham Ranch, S. & W. of Innisfail was owned by an Englishman who had been a tea planter & tea taster in Java. His wife was a Japanese Princess. They had 2 boys & 2 girls. His wife ate at the table with and like her husband did, while he was at home. But if he were away she had her food served in the parlor, on an expensive rug, "Just like home in Japan."

Mrs. Gidlingham's sister, Mrs. Mattahell, lived there and acted as Mrs. Gilliland's housekeeper & helper.

Dances held at "the Spruces" were the main events. In Innisfail there was then a "Quadrille Club" every Wednesday night. All learned to dance and all learned to call off the dances, by turns.

An interesting incident of how hard it was to be <u>sure</u> of money, is here given: 2 boys, 11 and 17 yrs. of age, raised spuds in the year 1892. They started for Calgary with 2 loads containing 150 bushels. Had heard potatoes were $1.25 a bushel. These 2 boys had high hopes of returning to Innisfail as "rich men." A while before that some rich man had "flooded the market" with spuds. These boys could sell to no market." Had to stay several days in the city to peddle their precious load from house to house at 35 cents a bushel. Much of their load went for board & room on this long stay. So -- two

boys, disappointed and tired, arrived home with some supplies for their winter's keep. They had experience, any-way. In Calgary, One of the first houses -- maybe the very first one --- was built where the C. P. R. tracks were to be laid, after the survey was taken. That house, the Cooks bought, moved Mrs. Cook & her stuff into it until the men could get "started up" out at Inniskail, on the farm. The house had to be moved over, when the R. R. construction gang came along.

During the Riel Rebellion - 1885 - people trekked to Calgary. Many camped just north of the town, Poplar grove then north of Dodd's Lake. It was and is called "Bannock Hill" because one & all baked bannocks while camped there. It was impossible to bake bread let alone keep it fit to eat while travelling.

The hotel on the North side of the track was closed, later. School was kept

in that building. Second school, I believe, was what is now Miss Murphey's shop. The third school was a larger one — but was cut in two & is still 2 dwellings in town. The fourth school was where the curling rink is. The fifth school is the big brick structure which still does good service for our younger generation. A high school, well equipped, was then built. a credit to any town.

School taxes, in early days, was only $2.50 on a quarter section.

In April, 1889, Mr. F. M. Rogers came to reside here.

Entertainments in town were more numerous. Some entire evenings were spent learning brass pounding work or wood carving. All these evenings would end with singing, playing on the few musical instruments they owned. Speaking & plays were "put on." Many dances were held.

Several owned kodaks. They took pictures which are valuable, now. Mr. Rogers colored many photos, and well done they are. A credit to anyone. They developed their own pictures. Some used their cellar for a "dark room". Some had a contrivance to make a red light that did the developing with good results. They had glass instead of films. Good artists, at that. Many photos, really treasured, prove that statement.

Pyrography — making small articles — useful and ornamental — was learned. Indian heads, &c. — some of them colored.

Bass wood was the medium on which they learned "chip carving."

Some costumes at a masquerade were real scrumptuous. Mr. Rogers has a Photo of himself in costume as Sir Walter Rawleigh. Most natural. He colored it himself. Another of him as one of the 3 Musketeers, "real as life" and colored by Mr. Rogers, also. The way that was done: Mr. Roger's brother would pose while Mr. F. M. would

get all set with his camera on a tripod, then he, in costume, would stand just where his brother had stood, while his brother took his photo. F. M. then developed the pictures & colored them. Real works of art — costumes, photos and coloring.

The men used to fish in winter — cut holes in the ice, put a red cloth on the hook, & got pike — (fresh water shark) — after they'd dabble hook & red rag up & down. "the fish sure did go for that." The men fling the fish out on the ice & go on fishing for more. The fish would lie on the ice, freeze and curl up. Later, when put in the warm house at home, they'd thaw out & flop around.

Mr. F. M. Rogers has a park for only small children to play in. He planted the evergreen trees. He has a photo of the park when a man could see over those trees. Now, the trees are very high. He has pictures taken of children playing on the swings colored, also. Beautiful photos. All these photos are post-card size.

Mr. Rogers took boys to the Mud Lake

and taught them to swim & dive. Made rafts & used them.

He has pictures of his choir boys & he as their choir master. He taught them to sing.

Card parties were popular. Progressive cards, at times.

Had societies, clubs &cc.. Put on birthday parties and serenades. On one occasion, the company went to one home & congratulated the man of the house on his 97 birthday, (he may have been 37.) They presented him with a boquet on that accassion which was a bath tub full of stink-weed & other weeds— took two men to carry the "vase".

Sleighing parties, weener roasts, skating, spelling bees, fishing parties & in the fall held on some farm a pea-hulling bee.

There was that summer resort at Mud Lake where many swam & used the diving board.

Barley was parched for coffee. Made home made brown bread from the wheat raised right here on farms. Farmers, them-

selves ground the wheat fine and used it to bake with & for porridge.

Meat was moose, partridge & rabbits & it was good.

Breeds lived north of town, near Doctor George. They had many horses. And, up there, too, Mr. John Thompson had race horses.

One of the old-timers, from east of Innisfail had the misfortune to break her leg while she was alone, one day when her husband was away on a business trip to Elnora. All day, she lay; pulled a quilt off of the line & put it over herself when it grew cold in the evening. As he did not come, she dragged herself up to the house, lay till rested, then into the house, where ~~she~~ he found her huddled up at 7 in the evening. She was then taken to a hospital and doctor, miles away, in a lumber wagon. Eventually, the limb was amputated, and this she is, yet, alone; for her husband died several years ago. She lives in the town of Innisfail, at present. She will be 87 years of age — May 15 — 1945. But she still knits socks & mitts for our soldier boys. She is Mrs. John James Innis, a brave lady, to be sure.

She does her own work, wheeling herself around in a wheel-chair.

Spelling bees were enjoyed by all but the "dunces." Some one said, "I always enjoyed being a 'dunce'. I was among the first to go "down". But I could then enjoy the other's "down-fall with a relish," and he laughed at the memory of many enjoyable evenings thus spent.

Lacross could be & was played in February of one year, in Innisfail.
Ping-pong was a popular game.

Mr. Sandy Fraser was the first man to make a thatched roof on his house. It is said it was an improvement over the sod & pole roofs.

Mr. Fred Rogers has a novel and artistic arrangement in the finishing of his rooms. He cut out, by scroll work, beautiful designs, scroll designs and with small nails & glue, fastened them in pattern to his ceiling. An all-round design with extra in corners, also a beautiful pattern in the center, surrounding the chandalier hook.

Mr. Owen White lived in Cottonwood District in the early days---There were no bridges, at first. When the Murray Bridge was first built Mr. Owen White and Miss May Miller were the first to cross it, Miss Miller, now Mrs. M. Gilgan, said it was really quite a thrill. She related one instance when she and Mr. White had crossed the river ford when the water was real high. The boat was riding the waves high & furiously; But since Mr. White had been a sailor for so many years, she felt safe because of the faith she had in his bravery and ability. Miss Miller used to cross the Little Red Deer River to get the mail for the neighborhood. When she had no horse to ride she used to go over in the boat, but no matter how stormy nor how high and wrathful the river she was never afraid if She had a good & fearless pilot.

She remembers the ~~first~~ Red Lodge School House being built. Then the first concert given there. They all thought it was the best ever given any-where.

at that time there was no town of Bowden.

Her father, Mr. Frederick Miller, was 69 years old when he came here and home-steaded — he and his 5 sons "took up" 6 quarter sections. He planned well because he had the boys settled all around him. One boy didn't stay for long but went back to the United States — later coming out again, however. His sons names were Joseph, George, Jesse, Tony & Fred; the latter being the one who went back to the U.S.A... There were 3 daughters, I believe. Mrs. Miller, Senior, lived (until her death) in the little old log house among the spruces that was her first home in Can..

Mr. Miller, although 69 yrs. old, walked to Bowden, later on, to "prove up" his home-stead, a distance of 14 miles. When he got there, he could procure "no eats." There being no depot, yet, he had to flag the train; he rode to Red Deer to "prove up." In that town he found "eats" and then the whole aspect seemed brighter. He was now an owner of a Canadian farm & felt "independent."

Another time he waded to cross that

river, before any bridge had been built, so he crossed on the log of an old tree, that had conveniently fallen across the river. When he had gone ½ way across the river, that log decided to "turn the other cheek", rolled over and as a consequence, Mr. Miller had a cold "ducking." There was nothing to do but return home, dry his clothes and the precious check he was ~~taking~~ with him to buy much needed groceries. Next day, he got Mr. Owen White to row him over in his boat.

Money gotten from the United States had 20% taken off for the exchange was poor.

Another time when Mr. Miller was in Bowden & wanted a meal, he found no place to buy a meal. But one helpful (?) man said, "Well, they are building a hotel up there on the hill." "What a helpful suggestion!" said Mr. Miller to his would be consoler.

When the Murray Bridge did finally materialize, Mr. Murray and Representative John A. Simpson had strong influence in getting that one rather than any one of several other likely crossings.

The only slang in that settlement was "Judas Priest," as recalled.

One family by the name of Sauberre had 2 sons who herded sheep in Montana each summer but returned to their homesteads, here, in the winter, of each year.

Mrs. Gilgan recalls the hardships the early Ministers had, making their rounds to visit their Church members.

One time, in particular, Mr. Murray's "big mad bull" frightened the Presbyterian Minister's team he was driving to his democrat, making them dash away, heedless of where they were going. They rushed, blindly into a muskeg, and became hopelessly stuck in that swamp. The Bowden minister waded out, went back to Mr. & Mrs. Miller's to get help. The Miller Boys went with him carrying a shot gun to "pepper the bull" & keep him interested while the others got the team & buggy out of that mire. After that the ministers came on horseback to "play safe" with all bulls – mad or glad.

Another neighbor was Mr. & Mrs. Bert White. Mr. Bert White was drowned in that little Red Deer River, later on.

Mrs. Gilgan, as Miss May Miller, was only 16 years of age when she first arrived at Innisfail.

Innisfail
and
Near by Districts.

Mrs. Ed. Hartley was an old pioneer of the Little Red Deer District, later of Gordon District, until her death, a few years ago. She told of fording the L. R. D. river before any bridges were made on it. Those "rainy years" were awful! At one time she had trouble enough crossing it to go to trade her butter and eggs for supplies, much needed in the home. The river was high and swift. She went alone with a team and wagon. It rained nearly all day but quit while she was in town, so she loaded flour and other groceries and started home. Being hardy and well acquainted with the treacherous Alberta weather in the rainy season, she had taken many quilts and a large canvass along. Well she did, for when she came to the river she saw at once she must not attempt to cross it in the night. Being ~~so~~ swift and carry so many trees & debris, it would be dangerous enough in daylight. So she bravely made camp & took her ease, until morning, when she went to a bachelor's house near by to seek shelter from

the cold for awhile. He gave her a breakfast and saw to it she crossed that raging river safely. (Later, that bachelor became her son-in-law, Mr. Arthur Webb.)

Mr. Arthur Webb and his father, Mr. George Webb, Sr. helped build up this far west country, too.

They all tell of the winter 1883-84- being such an open winter -- men made shacks & other improvements around their homes all winter. A certain hotel in Calgary was being built that winter, even masonry work was done.

The Presbyterean Church was built in Innisfail in 1890- the Manse in 1891. Ralph Conner dedicated that church.

In those early days the N.W.M.P. were stationed at the Red Deer Crossing, the present site of Red Deer City.

Millions of dollars out of our fertile districts in produce. Check of no small size have come into our hands.

Blacksmithing was "going strong" under the able maundgement of J. A. Wilson in 1892- it is stated.

"The Rutledge Farm Tragedy" on June 15, 1921 (as I recall the date) was a bad farm house fire that caused the death of 7 members of the family. Only one girl escaped.

That put the "fear of fire" into all of us.

Mrs. E. T. Thurston states she came to our part of the world in 1902. Her daughter, Mrs. Calvert & her husband live on the farm now while Mrs. Thurston, now a widow, lives in Innisfail. Mr. Calvert met with an accident, having lost one hand. But that brave man farms and seeing him around at his chores you would not believe he had that handicap, at all, carrying feed & pulling up stooks all winter (a few winters ago when we were all snowed in.) All farmers found that chore, hard work, but he did it all that winter.

You can see older men & women carrying on, as they did 20 years ago. It will be recalled I just mentioned Mrs. John James Innis, with only one leg, riding around in her wheeled chair, doing her own house work with the help of a man, who comes in and does the heavy lifting & carrying of fuel. She even sits & does her own washing.

I want to add to this list of brave ones who still "carry on" Mrs. Varty, who

Stays in her bed or in her wheel chair & makes quilts. She knits for soldiers, I believe. She even quilts those quilts in a frame. She & Mr. Varty (deceased) came to Innisfail in October 8-1891.

Hats off to these old pioneers, and many others, (who I have not intentionally left out), who are yet doing a full time job in spite of handicaps.

Bravo! Congratulations to these and many other feeble old timers who are carrying on with a smile.

Our heroes of the 80's, I call them.

Mrs. Varty came on one of our first trains. She had made a dress for the wife of one of the trainmen. He suggested she come to Innisfail on the price for making that dress. She did. (She has, now, 8 children and 20 grandchildren.)

Stony Indians were located North of the Big Red Deer River. They were peacable, they said they were Mc. Dougall's Indians.

Another real tragedy occurred west of town on the Big Red Deer River banks. Mr. Stanley Hatch was quarrying stone from the river bank. It is presumed, being hard of hearing, he did not hear the crashing of

the rocks above him, as he worked far into the bank. It crushed him to death as it caved in.

In 1901 (some have stated) snow or frost occurred in every month of the year, except July. "A ~~year~~ without a summer" it was called. A damaging frost as late as June 6. Snow didn't go off the ground until May in 1902. Snow came heavily, Early winter of 1901 - making a long, severe winter - 1901-02.

The Dick Kremer family came here in 1901 to homestead at Horse Shoe Lake. It took them 9 days to come from Ontario in a "mixed train."

In those early about the only amusements were fancy balls & masquerades.

Our Kremer brick yard was a success for years. It was in 7 acres of good, brick-making clay. Good brick, yellow clay on top - very good potter's clay underneath that. [More about this in another place.]

West and Rankin had about the first store carrying about everything. Later was and is known as G. W. West & Son General ~~store.~~ Department store.

There is, at the Province Office a photo of the "Old Methodist Church" with our Main Street only a lane between trees. It was built in 1896 by Sing & Mc. Kay.

That church burned down & in its place now stands a substantial brick structure, a credit to any town.

They also have a photo of the Innisfail Fall Show in 1898, showing the first house built in our town & the first depot, water tank for the C. & E. Railroad & the first fair grounds, &c. &c. The latter was where Mr. Pidgeon's Feed and Flour Mill now stands — (or there abouts.)

Mr. E. J. Dodd came to our town in 1899 as a boy, from Halton, Ontario. He became Past-master, here, in January 1, 1907. and has faithfully filled that position up to the present day.

Mr. George Kirkham came to Innisfail from Perth, Ontario, in 1900. He was a carpenter & builder. His sons, George and Thomas, were associated with him. They included brick-laying & plastering, and many substantial buildings of our town show the lasting qualities of their handiwork. Mr. George K., Sr. was a member of the school board.

Mr. Wm. Hodge, father of Wm., Hugh, & Chas. Hodge & their sister, Kate, was the proprietor of a General Store.

In 1906, Mr. Mc. arthur had a furniture store with an undertaking business in connection.

Mr. P. T. Goulter had a hardware store, sold out to H. H. Briggs and J. F. Rogers.

Soil in all this district, as a rule, is black vegetable mould (humus) from 9 to 13 inches in depth with a clay sub-soil reaching down to 6 to 12 feet.

Hay, grain, alfalfa, coarse grains, wood, grasses, good water, building stone (a short distance from town) coal deposits were the "natural resourses" in those early days, for our town.

Miss A. Simpson, first and only lady druggist in all of Alberta, for one year, was situated in Innisfail.

Miss Moyer had a small Millinery store in a part of Stewart's Department Store, but later Miss Mc. Dermott opened the first Millinery store, in 1902.

In those early days the stage coach, which passed thro' from Calgary to Edmonton & return, stopped at Napoleon & Contents near what was later named Napoleon's Lake. That was our mail center at that time.

"In those days there was no upper crust among neighbors. No lower crust. No in-between either! All alike! All friendly & helpful. As it should be.

When this lusting little town of 200 or 300 citizens was only one year old, 1892, it organized an Agricultural Society. The meeting, held in the little 12x16 ft. school house, was so full of enthusiasm "it went over with a bang," as one expressed it. The first show was held in October, 1893, with its President, C. Sproat; Secretary, C. G. Ross; Treasurer, George Constantine, "pushing for a success." It was all they had hoped for, a success.

Our thrifty, little town, in those days, was known in all the British Isles & over Canada & the United States to the south of us. It being in the heart of all this rich country, promised to be a good mixed farming country. Also in the heart of rural beauty, one of the best in Alberta, with plenty of lakelets, streams, beautiful scenery, and wonderful groves.

This District began what has proven to be many substantial business houses and prosperous farms. They, even then, exported live stock, butter, poultry, & cheese. They imported valuable herd stock, both horses and cattle — later hogs & sheep. Had good poultry stock.

Our first Agricultural Society had 114 members. "Money was conspicuous by its absence". A permit, dated March 21, 1892 was obtained for its introduction, & the "Imperial Agricultural Society" was the result. The total income for the first year of its life was $231.55 made up as follows:—

Gov't. Grant	$100.00
Membership subscriptions	114.00
Admission fees	17.55
Expenditures	159.38

and the Society finished its first year with a balance of $72.17.

The first snow-mobile that was recorded as passing through Innisfail was Tuesday, February 20, 1925.

The first Jeep to pass through Innisfail and to "park" awhile on our Main Street was one Saturday morning about Sept. 3, 1942. We decided that comfort was a minor consideration of the manufacturers.

Our first Municipal Hospital was built in 1926. A worthy Institution in any town.

Mr. Newsham tells of whiskey bottles being put in between logs in barns to admit light, instead of buying costly window glass. "Good, too," he says.

Mrs. Harry Scott, Sr. came over on the "Parisian" a worthy boat. It was one of the "Allan Line". She was then Miss Alice E. Dobson.

Mr. Harry Scott is said to have owned the first grain binder. Also first car in the Little Red Deer District.

The strong man of Little Red Deer District was a Mr. Meyer, one of their school teachers. I am told he is a member of the Alta. Provincial Dept. of Agriculture at this date.

One of Mr. John Brown's cows became almost buried when a straw pile tumbled over onto her. Mr. Meyers pulled that cow right out of there by one hind leg & her tail. My narrater was his admirer.

One famous son of Little Red Deer Dist. is Mr. Robert Sinclair the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture at Edmonton. His esteemed parents learned to farm & raise pure-bred cattle in Little Red Deer District.

Horse-power was the method of threshing after the flail became inadequate

The first male teacher for Little Red Deer School was Mr. Garbutt, in 1900. He founded the Garbutt Business College of Calgary. It has been a successful College with nearly 200 students, at present.

In 1902, we had wind stackers. Later, straw carriers and men cut the bands. Mostly steam engines, then. Mr. John Brown was the proud owner of nearly the first steam engine and thresher to come our way. The engine was used, in winter, for custom chopping of grain. all took their grain to be chopped, to his house. He took some grain for his pay- money was scarce.

Cattle on the range necessitated the branding of all stock before turning out on open range, with others. 2 of our L.R.D. citizens has these for their brand: Mr. Harry Scott, Sr., a dulap on breast; Mr. Scarlett, a dulap on the cheek.

In 1895 a bear was shot near our town, Innisfail.

During the Calgary Stampede in 1901, The Duke of York visited Alberta (We have a photo of him, then.)

Photos of a barn & shack on a homestead brings back memories of years of the worst hardships of our lives as

well as the happiest years of our lives. Happy because of the equality of all— no class, no clique.

Many times we see a "red coat" (a N.W.M.P.) coming over the plains & all were glad. He brought the "news" from "the outside" as we called it. No gossip, mind you, but candid telling of the most interesting events taking place all around us. He knew we were "hungry" for a message, as he could give it.

The Aldens of Big Bend District came in april 25, 1902.

They lived in town in winters to school the children and on the farm in summers. There were 3 children. One son, Harry & his sister still run the farm. They arrived in april but the last of July, the first 2 ladies came to visit the Aldens. It was Mrs. Bateman & her daughter who "stopped off" when Mr. Bateman took the cream to Markerville.

The young people had choir practice. Home to home "singing" "bees".

The Aldens came from Alden, Iowa. Their great- grandfather found- ed Alden, Iowa.

The Big Bend people held church at the Bateman home every 2 weeks,

with Rev. Chas. Bailey, a student minister. The alternate Sunday, Sunday School was held at the Alden Home.

The ministers were students-splendid young men.

Rev. Lonsdale-now preaches at Banff United Church.

Rev. Mc. Call, another, now teaches at St. Stephen's Church of Edmonton.

Rev. Scott went on a mission boat for years. Later, on the atlantic.

When they built the church at Markerville, ministers came from there to Big Bend.

Later, when a church was built in the town of Innisfail-they came out from there.

The costumes of the ladies were practical & were just as nice as now. Sunbonnets were much in vogue. Their feet were small— 2—5 size for shoes.

This war has revealed that women's & girls' shoes of our day are much larger, 4—9 sizes in shoes. It has also revealed that the boys for the army are much taller than in former years, say, during the Boer War or World War I.

The alden home grounds are laid out beautifully and usefully. Spruce &

pines planted in rows making a nice design of the grounds around the house.

Mr. John Alden was an Englishman who came over to the United States in the "Mayflower."

The Simpsons, in town, & the Aldens were often at each other's homes. Choir practice & entertainments were liked by both families.

Mr. Joseph Smith, loving called, "Holy Joe" preached at Big Bend school often & was much respected by all.

All neighbors were helpful. Exchanged during hard work.

Mr. Frank Malcolm, Jr. drove a dog team the 6 miles to Innisfail town school. Mr. Frank Malcolm, Sr., was the first carpenter & built many houses & stores in town.

There were wild lynx and an occassional bear.

The flood in 1915 nearly washed out the bridge. Water raged over all the low land on either side of river.

The Malcolms have many Indian relics. There is an Indian grave on their farm. They have some pemican showing berries, the fibres of meat, Saskatoon berries, real red berries,

with the blossom end on some, proving they were Saskatoons for sure.

Frank Malcolm trapped in winter and does, yet.

The Indian trails show there on their farm, yet. The shelter of the trees near the flowing waters of the Big Red Deer River and to be among the hills, suited the Indians, admirably.

There was a snow storm in May, once, the sheep & lambs layout in it; In the morning there was a queer shape where each sheep lay, because the lamb or lambs lay right on top of the mother sheep. Frank, Jr. has a photo of that like this, all covered with snow, lambs on sheep, & all. He has a photo of himself & dog-team he drove, too. Yet, one winter, he had a photo taken of him in shirt sleeves, during February. He showed me a photo of "Lassie" ~~Mrs.~~ lead dog, who lived to be 14 years of age. She seemed almost human. People loved their horses & dogs, then. When "Lassie" died she whined for talking, so human, in her suffering.

Frank, Jr., possesses a mug with the picture of the present large Post-Office of Innisfail on it, in colors, made in Germany in 1906.

Junior had his first sheep when he was 10 years old and has had sheep ever since. He now has a nice flock. The Malcolms had the first Southdown sheep around here & now have the first Rambelleighs sheep. The ram there, now, is one of the latter breed and is a very large, big horned sheep. Junior sheared sheep when very young & does, yet. Quite an authority on raising sheep & shearing.

No fences in those early days caused farmers much trouble searching for stock especially milk cows each morning & evening. One time Malcolms found their cows near Penhold.

Mr. Malcolm, Sr., has lived in every State of the Union.

Mrs. Hugh Ross was about the second woman out here, at least very early.

In 1911 Innisfail sent an ephibit to Calgary. They ephibited grain in sheaf, grass and forage crops, also flowers, fruits, vegetables and seed grains all gotten together and sent away in the space of 24 hours. It was all sent in the care of Wm. Edgar. Was crated by Geo. Kirkham. all at the Invitation of Calgary Fair Assoc..

One of our first teachers at Big Bend School was Matthew Haltain, now C.B.C. broadcaster & correspondent.

In the late years, Jan. 28, 1926 (I copy from an old copy of the "Innisfail Province") The old timers had a banquet which was announced by the ringing of a loud cow-bell. "Do you remember" could be heard at almost any time during the banquet — all was kept "western" and "olden."

There was an ample but simple menu:

The head table was decorated with a complete set of ranch buildings:—

House	wagons
corralls	sleighs
squeezes	mowers
bunk house	rakes & ccc.
stables	

Those models were all correct in every detail. They were built & contributed by Mr. Angus Anderson of the Mc. Pherson Coulee.

The dances, at that banquet were quadrills, waltzes, 2-steps, Minuets, Jerseys — all the old time popular dances.

[I am not sure <u>where</u> this banquet was held — likely at Calgary.]

Innisfail & near by
Districts.

The Big Bend District was so named because its location in the rich farming district right in a big bend of the Big Red Deer River. Well named.

The Sullivan family to the Big Bend District & homesteaded in 1890. Mr. S. was from Cork, Ireland, as was his wife. They bought pre-emptions for $1.25 a quarter in that District. They were ranchers — had Herefords from the Collicut Ranch "down south." Came from California in a covered wagon driving Montana broncos. Raised hundreds of chickens. Found pemican on their farm.

The first post-master of the first Post Office near them was Mr. John Bjornsson who came with the Sullivans on their long trek from California.

Mr. Sullivan was sec.-treas. of the Big Bend School. He ordered the lumber saw to the building of that school.

Being 6 or 8 miles from the settlement of Markerville they lived on the daily mail route to that P.O. Had a mail box at their gate.

Had to ford the Big Red Deer River for years until a bridge was built, finally. Many times the river was flooded, at which times the waters were high & swift.

The Indian sweat baths, (spoken of else where) rocks for same & other reminders of Indian living are here near the Sullivan home, (ranch) & near this famous Medicine River.

Money was so scarce. Barter was the only system of exchange.

One sheep hide sold for 25 cents to a man driving miles & miles with an ox team to Calgary. "The trip wasn't so bad after I got that cushion," he told me.

Mr. Cook, Jr. and Mr. Malcolm Sr. hauled coal from the Red Deer Mines to the town of Innisfail.

Cream, butter & hay were the main stand-bys for cash. Taken to Calgary for exchange for food supplies. Print was 35 cents a yard. Needles 25 cents a package. One woman complained at that. "Why, we can buy them "at home" for 5 cents a package, that is too much." The clerk closed that argument: "But think of the freight!"

The formal establishment of an educational system was not accomplished till 1885.

In the early days, 1890, 3 men, T. M. Rogers, Tom Bluff, & Harry Cooke drove to Calgary. There were 2½ feet of snow when they left here May 24, 1890.

Stopping places North of Calgary, were:

1. Johns Stevenson's Stopping Place — 22 miles N. of Calgary.
2. Chamberlain's — 16 miles North of No. 1.
3. Scarlett's — — 6 miles North of No. 2.
4. Kenley's — — 10 miles North of No. 3.
5. Lone Pine — — East of Bowden, with John Langley as proprietor.
6. Poplar Grove — — Innisfail, later.

The "Innisfail Province" came into being in 1908 — when on September 10 the last copy of the "Free Lance" was put out & the new owner, Mr. George R. Westland took over under the new name. Mr. J. A. Mc. Intosh was the owner of the "Free Lance". The 2 installed into one paper. It was $1 a year.

In that same copy, Miss Simpson had her advertisement, specializing in 13 different kinds of spices. She called her store, "The Quality Store".

"Mr. E. L. Ludlum, Real Estate agent, Land $8 to $12.50 an acre."

"Mr. H. Mc. Dermott, Jeweller, Agent for the Singer Sewing Machine."

"3 — Hill Valley Fair, Wednesday, October 7, 1908. admission 25 cents, —

Children under 14 years of age, free. $750 prize money offered."

"The 17th Anniversary of the Presbyterean Church. Rev. W. G. Brown, Pastor."

"Methodist Church Anniversary & Harvest Home Services held November 1st and 2—1908."

"1908, the Govt. gang for the Telephone Co. are in the locality to put in Govt. telephones east & west of I."

"A carload of sheep was shipped from Markerville through Innisfail."

"A bear & 3 cubs seen near town."

An ad. for Mrs. Playle's oil paintings was in it.

"Eclipse Studio, W. Playle, Photographer, Innisfail & Olds."

"Twin Livery Barns, Frank Anderson, Proprietor."

"H. A. Malcolm, auctioneer, Commissioner for ~~oaths~~ affidavits."

"A great suit sale. All our high class tailored suits, 20th Century Brand, $15. Regular suits, $10. J. K. Mc. Millan."

[all these last quoted from the last copy of the "Free Lance" in 1908.]

Good building stone was to be had in the Grahamstod District. The Grahamstow School, east of town was all built of stone from that District, and the stone in the foundation and cellar of Dr. George's house was also brot. from the G. District.

Mr. Harry Cooke helped put the railroad from C. to Red Deer, a distance of 100 miles, all work done by horses. If they didn't keep ahead of the steel gang- - - - - but they did do it and surely hustled to do it by fall, of 1900. The Station was put in at Poplar Grove in 1901 & the name was change by the C.N.E. railroad to Innisfail.

Chas. Ross, a Scotchman, owned the "Model Farm" as he called it, north of town; the place was known as "the Spruces." He had students there from England, Scotland & Ireland & taught them how to farm.

5 of his students names, were:—

Walter Carter,- Scotch (later homesteaded here)
Teddy Carlos- English.
Sandy Walker- Scotch.
Charles Fleming- Scotch.
Percy Townsend- Irish.

Mr. Ross had these 5 students on his "Model Farm"; Mr. Ross had only 5 Acres broken, yet he taught these 5 to farm, there

Mr. Kemp built a log livery barn which is still in existance out on Mr. Hanford's farm, having been moved from town, years ago. Mr. Hanford's farm is just at the edge of town, to the N. E..

Mr. Cook, Sr., drove to Calgary. A blizzard came up while they were on their way. He met 20 men walking North from C., at the Johnson Stevenson Stopping place, 22 miles N. of C.. All but 3 turned back & went to C. with Mr. Cook, Sr.. Wanted to ride but "No! Horses have it bad enough. The blizzard will take you along fast enough if you will but raise your feet up." It was at their backs. Mr. Cook had to go on in the blizzard for his family up there was very short of supplies. He'd be ready, then, to start back home as soon as the blizzard stopped. Blizzards, in those days, usually lasted 3 days & that one did.

Those 3 men who came on North did so after the blizzard subsided. They had become "snow blind" so by the time they could travel north again their eyes were much better. The names of the 3 tireless, sturdy pioneers were: John Dodd, Wm. Champs & Arthur Bioletti.

Frost was one of our worst enemies, in those "wet years." Land was so wet in the spring one could scarcely get onto the land

to work it up for seeding, which was done by hand — broadcast, then harrowed in. Crops were then taken out by mower or sythe. It was gathered up & bound by hand into sheaves & stooked.

Out west Dickson was settled in 1904. Mr. Andrew Larsen came in 1905.

Too much rain. No bridges. Hard to get to town. Transportation almost impossible. Hard to ford the Medicine River & the Big Red Deer River.

In spring, even the creeks were to high to ford them.

Mr. Andrew Larsen, in 1938, ran an Illustration Farm just north of Dickson and did for 4 years. People in the Dickson District wanted such a farm & chose the Larsen farm as ideal — low land, medium & high land. The low land, when drained, was good to test out different forage crops. The Medium high land for grain. This was a Govt. controlled farm. They tested different kinds of crops & grasses to choose the best for the Dickson farmers to use.

On the low lands they tried grasses & forage crops. The Govt. furnished everything & all seed. All kinds of grain was tried on the medium & high land. Had small

plots, especially cared for, took small samples to the Govt. Tried different kinds of fertilizer — see which do best, with or without fertilizer on grains. Govt. kept a record of different results.

The Govt. furnished no garden or flower seeds.

There were rows & rows of shelter belt trees, but in the 4 years no results to report.

[since then, am told, trying nursery stock. Mr. John Sandberg has run the place since 1942, the Larsens having moved to town, to live.

The Govt. furnished pure-bred pigs. Sent out best of baby chix each spring of the Barred Rock breed.

Govt. furnished & sent out Registered seed grain & grass seed, also.

A good undertaking to have in any District.

The Simpsons came with cattle & "calf wagon" from Manitoba in 1900.

They found the Saskatoon berries very plentiful all around here. There was a waif, an orphan boy with them. They would not eat the Sask. berries for fear they were poison. That boy offered to eat them. If he did not die the berries

could not be poison. He, boy fashion, had a "good fill" several times. Needless to say some were put away for winter & all had lots to eat all autumn.

JOSEPH SMITH LAID TO ~~REST~~

The United church on Friday afternoon November 3rd was crowded to the doors with friends who had gathered to pay their last respects to the late Joseph Smith who passed away at the Innisfail Hospital on Tuesday, October 31st., at the age of 91 years.

Rev. Robert Simons pastor of the United Church conducted the service and most appropriately took as his text: "Well done thou good and faithful servant," and paid high tribute to the deceased as a good Christian churchman and a good Christian citizen.

Rev. Lyttle of Calgary a co-worker with Mr. Smith in the Bible Society assisted with the service.

The pallbearers were Messrs. Richard Whiteside, Haslam Marshall, Robert Morris, A. M. Fry, W. Kennings, J. Laidler.

Stephen's Funeral Home had charge of the funeral arrangements.

Among those present at the funeral was John F. Wilkinson of Camrose, Mr. Smith's oldest nephew. He leaves to mourn his death his wife living at Innisfail. There were no children and Mr. Smith was the last male of his family.

The late Mr. Smith was born at Wildon Grange, Yorkshire, England on May 12th., 1853. As a young man he farmed and made such a name for himself as a successful farmer that in 1893 he was sent to Canada to look over the country with a view to seeing in just how far Canada would be a suitable place for settlement of farmers. He returned to England in 1894 and made his report and later came back to Canada locating at Red Deer. In 1898 Mr. Smith started his farming operations in this country locating on the Bouteyre Ranch which is about one mile east of the present Westholm school.

On January 5, 1898 he married Margaret Kendrew of Edwell district where her two brothers Charles and Joseph Kendrew still reside.

Mr. Smith was quite successful in his farming operations and in 1911 was one of the first families of the district to introduce power farming equipment. In 1918 he retired from farming and moved into Innisfail but in 1921 he returned to his farm and it was not until 1926 that he finally settled in Innisfail where he had resided up to the time his death.

Mr. Smith had always been a very sincere churchman, a Methodist, and later connected with the United Church. He was active both in Church and Sunday School and took a keen interest in the Bible Society. He had charge of the adult bible class of Innisfail United Church for many years and has a wide circle of young men and women who held him in the highest regard because of their association with him in church and sunday school work.

While not seeking political honors he was a staunch Liberal and kept himself posted on the current political and world events.

He had enjoyed fair health practically up to the time of his death and had been "about town", about a week before the end came.

"INNISFAIL PROVINCE"

Wildon Grange, Yorkshire, England on May 12th., 1853. As a young man he farmed and made such a name for himself as a successful farmer that in 1893 he was sent to Canada to look over the country with a view to seeing in just how far Canada would be a suitable place for settlement of farmers. He returned to England in 1894 and made his report and later came back to Canada locating at Red Deer. In 1898 Mr. Smith started his farming operations in this country locating on the Bouteyre Ranch which is about one mile east of the present Westholm school.

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ot be poison. He, boy fashion, od fill" several times. Needless ne were put away for winter & ts to eat all autumn.

Mr. George E. Bryan was Station Agent of the C. & E. here, then farmed just East of town for years.

" When Innisfail was working under the village ordinance, Mr. Bryan held the position of overseer for several terms & many of the permanent improvements of (our) town may be place to his credit. He also served on the town council & School Board for several years. He was in the lumber business, was an auctioneer & was an all-round good citizen of English Extract." "Innisfail Province".

"Innisfail and
Near by
Districts."

Another interesting spot west of Innisfail, across the Big Red Deer bridge, is the place where the Indians, from far and wide, came to take their "Sweat Baths".

The Indians still think the old Indian stories of healing power in the waters of the Medicine River are true. I heard it discussed, one evening, thus, by an old-timer:

"Mr.----- arrived at the place, in the very early days, of an Indian encampment. It was late evening. The men who had run all day hunting, were about to take their sweat-baths. The squaws had made a kind of tent of bended willows. The outside was nearly circular. These 2 squaws had made this one for only 2 men — their "braves". It was about 15 ft. in circumference and about 3 ft. high. They had lain their buffalo & cow skins over it & had placed dirt and rocks on the edges to keep it down & keep the heat in tent.

We wondered what the fire outside was filled with stones. But soon saw the squaws pick up hot stones

in a kind of tongs made of the branches of a stout willow. They put these hot stones in a pile in the center of the tent (bath house.)

Then 2 naked Indians immerged from their own two tepees & ran to the bath house, each carrying a small basin of water, from the Medicine River.

They sat in there & occasionally threw a little water on the stones to create steam. That steam put the Indians into a profuse perspiration.

They remained in that place for a full hour. As they came forth from their sweat bath one plunged into the cool, flowing waters of the Medicine River, which was near the "bath room." The other had his squaw plunge a pail of cold water over him. (she had gotten the water from the Medicine River while he was in the tent.) Then, they both rubbed themselves well over, & briskly with snow."

One unaccustomed to such heat could not stand that sweat bath ½ hour.

The Indians claim they do this in order that their limbs may become

more supple and they more alert and fast running to catch the wild animals they are hunting to kill. They think sweats are a good remedy for almost all ills.

They feel so much better, they claim the water from the Medicine River did it.

The stone piles & some willow arches out there, yet, can be plainly taken as proof of all this.

Beside the Medicine there used to be much Seneca Root, a root much used by the Indians for medicine, too. (None found there, now.)

This is taken from Two volumn "History of Alberta" of 1912.

Our first Representative in the Govt. of the North West Territories was Mr. John A. Simpson:

Came to Innisfail when only the grading for a rail-road had reached this place. He was born in County Peel, Ontario on August 20, 1854. When 4 years of age his parents moved to Bruce County, Ontario, where he later attended the public schools until he was 16 years of age, afterward taking a commercial course.

He became a carpenter until 1879 when he came west, to County of Russel, Manitoba, where he home-steaded for awhile But finding his farm was 50 miles from the new R. R. put through. Sold his farm for what taxes were then due and moved to the village of Shellmont, Manitoba, where he engaged ~~as~~ foreman for the firm of Mitchell & Bucknell and built saw and grist mills for them. He remained there 4 years.

Then he & Robert Murray, Walter Charles, James Langford & the Copley Bros., started for Calgary, with 300 head of cattle & horses. All owned the herd. Mr. Simpsons share being 49 head. That was May 28, 1890 when they started. It took them 2 months, arriving in Calgary July 28 - 1890

The camped for the winter at the present site of Olds. They cut grass for hay for the feed for winter, also.

In spring of 1891 — Mrs. Simpson moved on to Innisfail leaving the other boys there.

In January, 1892 he opened up a lumber yard. That & his carpenter biz. went well, hand in hand.

In 1892 he brot. his family to Innisfail by rail.

In 1894 Mr. Simpson was elected to the N. W. T. Ter. Assembly, which then met at Regina. He remained in this Leg. body as long as it existed. When the Provinces were formed he was elected to the first Legislative Assembly of the Province of Alberta from the District of Innisfail. He was yet, the Deputy Speaker & member of Parliament for Alta. in 1912.

He was on the first Town Council of the town of Innisfail.

He married Miss Anna Proudfoot of Ontario — they had 5 children.

Respected far & wide for his sterling qualities.

One woman "took orders" for dried fruits & then sent to California for ~~them~~: dried apples, prunes, apricots. "We thought ourselves rich, right "in clover" when we could serve California fruits on our tables."

Sometimes as many as 24 men had to be fed in our little shack at threshing time or other "bees."

One man was popular at all entertainments for his "solos." He would "stand up in front" with his hands hidden in his long coat sleeves, swing his arms and sing, keeping time by tapping his foot loudly. He'd learn poetry from a newspaper, magazine or book — and then sing the words he knew so perfectly to a tune he'd make up as he proceeded. Or was it a tune? Laugh, we surely did. He created much mirth for us all.

One hail storm, in the night, will always be remembered by "All Districts", says many. It dented boards ½ inch, broke all windows it could reach, spoiled roofs, killed & injured much stock. It really frightened all. Hail stones broke one window & dented a sewing machine sitting just inside. (I saw the ~~at~~ dents in that machine, yet.

The Wood's Christian Home for children was begun here. In summer, they had tents in the yard for sleeping. It then located at Olds & has been out by Bowness Park, Calgary, for years. It started here with 9 children, only, whom the Wood's loved & cared for, like their own.

That house was, later, the first hospital for Innisfail. Drs. Wagner & Turner's private hospital. Miss Logan, was first Matron of it. Miss Mc. Gilvary now Mrs. Frank West, was a one time Matron, there, also.

Mr. Maybank, Druggist of Olds, had a Sunday School class out at Big Bend, at one time.

Frank Malcolm's uncle went to Dances with his violin, & played for them. He had come from California with 4 horses, & a covered wagon.

Mr. & Mrs. Angus Mc. Kay of Little Red Deer District came in 1910 from Sutherlandshire, Scotland with a family of 12 children. Mr. Mc. Kay & Georgina have gone on before but all the others are living. Mrs. Mc. Kay lives in town & celebrated her 80 birthday on Sunday, Oct. 8. When Mr. & Mrs. Mc. Kay celebrated their golden Wedding Anniversary, all the family were there. The 2 have gone since then.

In 1885, Sandy Frazer gave a great spread to all.

James, John & Isabella Brown, Alf. Carter, Seagraim, Jack & Pat Miller, from the Stopping Place & athers were all there. A great spread was set out. One big partridge for each plate. A monster plum pudding in a dish-pan were items on the "menu."

Sandy played the violin & dancing naturally followed.

Mr. Nat. Wright homesteaded in the Little Red Deer Dist.. Mr. Moses Wildman, Chas. Bridgeman, Wm. Mc. Cormack, & L. M. Sage came about same time. Mr. Sage was connected with the Lumber & Milling Co. that was located North of the Big River — where Cash City P.O. was.

In 1887 — 2 Frenchmen came, Remillard & Content, & built a log house on the "Big Trail." This was later the residence of Mr. Fred Archer, now the home of Mr. Mannel.

The lake just west of town near our rifle range was "Lake Napoleon," for Napoleon Remillard.

Mr. Content went east of Red Deer City & founded the town, now "Content, Alta."

The locking of a door was not thought of & petty thieving had not yet introduced itself.

1886.

2 stage coaches were rining, one leaving Calgary & the other leaving Edmonton, on Monday, arriving Thursday — 4 days to make the trip of 200 miles. Fare was $25 — meals extra. Meals consisted of sowisbelly, soda biscuits, tea or coffee.

The sleeping accommodations at the Stopping Places were limited & often, when ladies were present, a portion of the room was curtained off with blankets so as to form "My Lady's Chamber".

Winter of 1888 & 1889 was fairly mild. Sleigh runners rode on top of coach all winter till part of March & part of April, when the wheels took the "ups".

Prairie fires were dreaded and took a great deal of "toll". Blizzards, too, were feared. About 1890 (?) Mr. Joe Harbison was lost in a blizzard on the 27 of Sept. (all the) search parties scoured the country his remains were not found until the end of the following January. He was

wrapped in his saddle-blanket. His horse was tied to a willow, close by him. Both had frozen to death, there. He was found only 13 miles from his home.

The sign, "General Merchants" is still discernable on the Constantine house now owned by Mr. & Mrs. Kressell.

Dominion Day in 1891 was celebrated on the hill now known as Dodd's Hill.

The very first station agent was the well known Johnny Duffy. Later, George Bryan filled that office.

The train service was erratic. Sometimes it took one whole day to travel from Calgary to Red Deer.

("The Innisfail Province has been the source of quite a lot of my report. The Old Timers are splendid & their eyes lit up & their tongues loosened as memory began to work "in reverse". They enjoyed the recollecting old doings as much as I did recording them.)

(Would like to have kept this report & all reports in proper order of events, but I have not the time to do it. Hope it isn't "just a jumble". Hope you can enjoy it as I have.)

Irrigated and
near by
Districts.

Mrs. Lillian A. Riste
Innisfail, Alberta.

INNISFAIL AND NEARBY DISTRICTS

In the 1900's it was difficult to make a living except by selling cream and butter. Several of the pioneers worked on the construction gang where the railroad was being put through. At one time the workers got a break from regular work. They found a dead cow on the tracks, that had been killed by the train presumably. The men took a description of the cow, of all brands and all markings for their record, then buried the cow as per orders from the railway company. Several Indians watched this proceeding. When the burial was over the men went on to inspect the other six miles of tracks. On their return in the evening they found the cow had been dug up by the Indians for they saw it strung up in a tree around which several squaws made leather from all hides. The Indians thought nothing of all this way for indeed it was meat for many a day ahead for them and their usual band of dogs.

The settlers worked on the railway for 50 cents a day. Six month's wage for many a good man was $100, even on a farm.

Many farmers milked 10-15 cows. Calves sold for 2-2½ cents per pound, live weight. Several Little Red Deer women had contracts for butter the year around. Some made 70 lbs. butter weekly. Mrs. Alex Davidson, Mrs. McDougall, Mrs. John Brown, and Mrs. David Sinclair had continual contracts with the C. & E. Railroad Company for all the

butter they could make. The lady on the Gillingham Ranch had a continual contract with the Hudson Bay Company for all her butter. Little Red Deer was an outstanding dairy settlement.

Later, twice weekly a cream hauler drove up to your door--took a sample of your cream for testing purposes, then would pour all your cream into his wooden vats holding other farmers' cream and trundle away over all kinds of roads to the creamery. Little wonder it was "churned" at the time of his arrival in town. But the creamery made "prize taking butter" anyway.

There was no "special grade" given as we know it now, yet many made a good living at it, anyway.

When a little later the packers made a good offer for beef cattle, several farmers went in for beef cattle also. The David Sinclair family went in for and had the first purebred Shorthorns. Mr. Sinclair bought a bull calf from the Van Horne Farm and paid $500 for it as a yearling. In 3 years that bull was the champion bull in the Calgary Spring Bull show. Mr. Sinclair took many other prizes in that snow and in many to follow. He was well-known far and near as a breeder of Shorthorn cattle. Mr. Sinclair's first purebred cow was named "Lauadale"--well known in those days. Mr. Sinclair's farm was named the "Willow Bank Farm". It was on this farm that the son was raised who later became the famous Dr. R. Sinclair of the University of Alberta at Edmonton, Alberta, our capital city.

The Sullivans north of the B.R.D. river had Hereford cattle, first. Now, there are many raised in the Little Red Deer district, Aberdeen Angus, also. Marquis Wheat and Banner Oats were the best for the districts here at that early date.

In 1899, it is said, one man traded oats for 16¢ per bushel for groceries after he hauled it to Innisifail.

Clydsdale horses were Jim Brown's prize-takers. Many firsts came his way. Some teams sold for $600 a team. They were real horses.

One time two men, Mr. Don Syla and a neighbor, attempted to cross the Little Red Deer river in a wagon. The wagon capsized, Mr. Syla swam ashore but the neighbor was drowned. His body was found one month later with $600 in his leather pocket book, as good as gold. He had been on his way to Jim Brown's to buy a team of those famous Clydsdale horses. Incidentally, his wife used that money to take her back to her former home in Oklahoma.

Cheap land on easy terms--no wonder that in such fertile soil the pioneers made good.

Buffalo trails were common sights; they always went to water holes or salt licks or sometimes to alkali licks. Many times the cattle, the buffaloes and the antelopes grazed together.

Much of our land around here is such rich soil it has been farmed for 40 years without summer-fallow or rest. Farmers have used rotation of crops instead of summer-fallow.

Sons and daughters are still farming the land their fathers farmed in the early 90's. Some of the steady names in Little Red Deer district are: Sinclair, MacDougall, Brown, Duncan, Edgar, Scott, Scarlett, Davidson, Tester, Miller, Newsham, Wright, Robinson, Ross, Stiggings, and etc.

In the early 90's when the Americans came in to settle immigration was on for sure.

Wild geese and ducks were so plentiful in those days that in the evening one could see hundreds feeding on the settlers' stooks. Prairie chickens could be seen by the hundreds on the fences. Deer and an occasional moose were welcome.

Frost was one of the worst enemies--second to too much water. Those "wet years" were many. Land was so wet in spring one could scarcely get onto the land to work it up for seeding which was done by hand--broadcast--then harrowed in. Crops were taken off by mower or sythe. It was taken up and bound by hand into sheaves and stooked.

Many times pemmican has been found. Some still have good specimens where red berries, something quite green, fibres of meat, and a few saskatoons, all in natural colors, are to be plainly discerned.

Some Indian arrowheads, good shape and in perfect condition, can be seen in some homes found on their farms. Some large bones can be found even yet, now turned to real stone. The Indians say the old Indians used to fight with them as weapons. When asked if they were stones they laughed

and said, "No. No, they are bones of animals, petrified. Put into the sandy soil and left, bones will become petrified even yet," they say.

(Several boys of our day put some long leg bones of a horse into the sandy soil and are still waiting for them to turn to stone.)

Many have mounted wild animals' heads and birds. Some I have seen are: the Golden Eagle, Bald-headed Eagle, large owls, deer, moose elk, and even one pinto pony's head. Grouse, pheasant, duck, goose and one speckled rooster. This last was mounted 40 years ago and is in a good state of preservation yet.

Innisfail once boasted a summer resort. What is now known as Mud Lake is situated in a bowl between surrounding hills whichnare covered with poplar trees. Several had cabins out there and resorted to this cool, restful place in summer's sweltering heat. The Millers and Aspinalls were two of those several lucky families. There were at least two boats and a diving board. Swimming was indulged in by many from town, also.

The first car was owned by Mr. Lundy. He has a son and a daughter still living in Innisfail. That first car was a rubber tired,chain drive, high wheel, one seater. Some called it a "gas buggy" which it resembled, steered by a tee affair, not a steering wheel as now. It was a real luxury in those days. Buckboards, wagons and sleighs (home-made) and stone-boats.

The first rubber-tired buggy was owned by Mr. Newt Parsons. It was also a luxury and real smart.

Our first mewspaper was the "Free Lance". One of our citizens, Mr. McArthur, states that he took the first copy of it in 1893 and always has taken that newsy paper.

Cattle were driven to market where the farmer had to take 5% off for shrinkage. Hogs sold were always dressed before sold. In 1893, steers sold for 3½¢ with 5% shrinkage. There were no poultry except chickens. Eggs were not sold just traded for groceries at stores.

Horse Shoe Lake is the shape of a horse shoe and why is it called Horse Shoe Lake? Is it because of its shape? It is called Davy Lake on maps. And why Davy Lake? I do not know. Horse Shoe Lake is 300-400 acres.

Horse Shoe Lake farmers later took their whole milk to the Knee Hill Valley store to have it seperated. Sold cream and then took skimmed milk home. Or some kept both cream and milk at home and made butter to sell.

Any why Knee Hill Valley's name? Some say this prominent hill is the shape of one's knee. Knee Hill Valley store started with $10 worth of goods. Then Dawdry and Rogers bought it and enlarged its capacity and stock.

Mr. Henry Barkenseyer shipped his first hogs to Calgary. He shipped hogs to Pat Burns for eleven years, straight.

Innisfail boasted a library in 1902 which had 500 books in it. It was housed in the Simpson house with Miss Simpson as librarian without a salary. The membership was $1 a year.

The promoters were F.M. Rogers, Mrs. Mowbray, Mrs. P.J. Bourchier, Miss Simpson, P.L. Grasse.

Jesse Stewart came from Africa during the Boer War and later became stewart, petty officer, in our big Canadian Navy of 3 ships.

Mr. A. Aspinall is a veteran of the Boer War.

Poplar Grove was changed to Innisfail by the C. & E. railroad when it opened its depot here in the year 1891.

All of Innisfail was North of the railroad tracks till about that time. Town lots were offered free on the south side of the tracks if any business man would move his store or place of business over on the south side. All this was after it was surveyed in 1901. Men and teams got busy and moved many buildings.

Before 1901, Innisfail was all timber with only paths and wagon trails, sheltering a shack here and there.

In 1895 there was a bear shot among the homes on the north side.

Mr. A. Aspinall was a member of the North West Mounted Police and has a photo of himself mounted on a fine specimen of horse flesh.

Mr. Aspinall says a good mount must have a long springy fetlock--so he can spring as he travels. Not a stumpy, short fetlock. That is bad.

Many travelled among these hills and over muddy roads on horseback among the farmers. Some farmers had fast horses. Some had race horses.

Dr. Lauder, a veterinary surgeon, was apt to pull a tooth for some one who was suffering with a bad case of toothache.

Dr. George has a son who is a mail clerk on the C.P.R. now, I am told.

In 1885, "The Old Edmonton Trail" went through what is now the stockyards and the Massie Harris Building, down the hill past the Kressell Residence. That "draw" was so flat it was necessary to cordoroy it for some distance, there, with willows. Some years later it was seen that some of those willows were petrified.

Our first cemetery was located on the N.W. corner of the N.W. 1/4 section of 9-35-28 west of the fifth, 1½ miles south of the townsite. That is the farm now owned by Wm. Clifford. His nephew, Mr. Kinsella lived on that 1/4 section in 1944. The trip way out there was almost impossible over the big snow banks in winter and through deep mud in summer. So the cemetery just west of town was procured and all but one or two bodies were taken up and moved to the new site.

The Currie Bros., store-keepers, bought cream during cold weather, frozen solid, from farmers. Then cut it into squares, solid, to sell to customers in town--1898.

About that time butter sold for 8¢ and eggs for 10¢ in 1898.

In 1901 when Mr. J.H. McArthur came to Innisfail it was so wet--could scarcely get to town.

Oklahoma School district was named Oklahoma because Dan Syla and a few others settled there, having migrated from the state of Oklahoma, in the U.S.A., 1902-3. The school was built and named in 1904. R.C. Speer was the first secretary-treasurer. Jackson Newsham was secretary-treasurer from 1905. Oklahoma was a very "wet" district.

Many beavers made dams along the Little Red Deer river and do yet.

The first survey for a railroad was through the Manual Farm intending to cross the Big Red Deer river there. But Mr. Gaetz of Red Deer influenced the railroad company to keep it east of the Big Red Deer river and cross it farther north where Red Deer city now stands. That was done.

Years before, Mr. Jackson Newsham had seen a map in Manchester, England showing Cash City on the north side of the river across from where the first grading was done on the Manual farm, west of Innisfail. That short bit of grading is still on that farm.

That map showed Cash City on the north side of the Big Red Deer river. Well, there was a Cash City post office there from Sept. 1889 to Sept. 1891 according to a volume of the Markerville poet, Mr. Stephan G. Stephanson. (I have an account of that record.) Mr. Sage lived at that place, the sawmill and he had a son, named Cash. Was it named for him or merely a coincidence? And that map was made in England years before the railroad came through at all or ever there was a Cash City postoffice.

At this Sage sawmill were several two story buildings. It did a prosperous business for awnile. Lumber was hauled from there to Calgary in 1890. Logs were floated down the river to this mill but the river was too swift there to properly stop the logs so the mill (or was it another) was put down the river farther where a bend in it slowed down the speed of the waters.

There were very few binders then. Fewer threshing machines. Mr. Moses Wildman flailed out all the grain for his neighbors. Jackson Newsham flailed out 1000 lbs. grass seed in 1899.

Little Red Deer school is one of the very early ones in Alberta being No. 362. Hola school and Tindostoll schools are among the earliest, also.

A co-op creamery was built in 1894 and 1895. In 1900 it was second largest in Western Canada. It made 240,000 lbs. of butter yearly, 1902-1905. Only one other creamery in Western Canada was larger. The largest creamery was at Bridge, Saskatchewan. That butter and cream business of the farmers was their main means of living. Some sold fat beef stuff they ranched.

Near town, several gas tractors were acquired. Mr. Henry Barkemeyer got a Hart Parr and Mr. August Goldstrum got an International. Tractors came into Little Red Deer district about this time. Steam engines had been used before. These gas tractors were imported into Innisfail. Mr. Jackson Newsham was one of the first owners. From then on there was

more land broken and more grain raised and more elevators built; before, only one elevator in Innisfail.

In 1901 when Mr. J.H. McArthur came to Innisfail it was so wet, could scarcely get to town. It rained every day for 2 or 3 months at a time. They had log shacks with mud roofs. He says it rained in the house long after it quit outside--drip! drip!! drip!!!

Bachelors were sometimes not such good cooks. One said to the men working for him at threshing time, "The bread is poor. If it won't hurt you, I'll be glad. One thing is sure, you can't hurt it."

Cattle buyers had to forde creeks and rivers that were swollen with the recent rains. They carried "slickers" at all times.

Cattlemen and ranchers had to "dip" for mange, several of the neighbors helping,making a "bee" of it.

There was not much grain raised east of town at first, mostly ranching. There was so much good grass and many lakes. Ranching conditions were ideal.

The C. and E. held every alternate section of land. All even numbered sections were for homesteads.

In 1905-6-7 settlers began to come in and ranching was crowded out, to a large extent.

In 1902 a Local Improvement district was organized by the government.

The first taxes were $2 a quarter-section.

In 1903 the first school house for Milnerton was built.

Had only 6 months school. Homesteads only were taxed at that time. C. and E. land was tax free.

Roads and trails through the bush were awful--muddy, almost impassable. From Milnerton there were 2 trails to town. "No matter which trail you took, you wished you had taken the other one." One time Mr. McArthur started to town with 7 bushels of spuds on his democrat to go to Innisfail. The mud was so deep he couldn't keep going so he left the potatoes at a farm house along the trail until the mud dried up. Even at that he broke 2 whiffle-trees on his new democrat. He always took one day to go into Innisfail and one day to return home and only 20 miles to go.

Hay could be cut any place and farmers could put up as much as he wished--FREE.

As settlers (homesteaders) came in, schools were built. Only 5 or 6 children were required to get a grant from the government to build one. School houses were used for public meetings, church and school purposes, and dances.

Keeping in mind the conditions of the roads think what a time Mr. Lundy (the first and only car owner) and Mr. Grasse had going and coming from the Milnerton Fair one year. The roads were awful and Mr. Grasse remarked that, "motor cars are of little use in the mud". He had plenty of experience that day to speak with authority.

The Milnerton Fair was a real affair and a success for years. There were large herds of pure-breds. There were 600 and 700 people at these rural fairs, 20 miles from a railroad.

They offered $1200 to $1500 in prizes each year. Mr. Duncan Marshall of Olds always attended these fairs. Later that gentleman became Minister of Agriculture in Edmonton government. He was of help to the promoters of said Fair. The women's exhibits were good.

The Milnerton Fair was always held on the "Three Hills Creek Flat".

The long grass was a danger in autumn for if and when a prairie fire started it was horrifying. When making all new roads a fireguard was plowed. All settlers surrounded their house, buildings and hay and straw stacks with a fire-guard. In case of fire every man got on a horse and went to fight the dreaded and dreadful prairie fire.

A Mr. Cochraine came into his house for dinner one day and finding he'd have to wait awhile for it, went out to burn a fire-guard around his buildings. (Instead of plowing one, mind you.) It got out of control and burned his house before dinner. He said, "I knew when the dinner was cooked but it was not eatable at that." He was a newcomer and had seen no fire-guards made before.

There were no lazy people in those days of our history.

Another man came in with the last load of his furniture to his homestead. He found his new house had burned down in a big prairie fire that had swept over a large area of his chosen valley land. His piano had been left in town. Several trunks of clothing and bedding had been left at a neighbor's home where his family were staying temporarily.

He was a very sorrowful man that day. All they had to start up with now in ashes. But he stayed with it and became a success in spite of that "poor start".

Mr. Thurston was Milnerton's first postmaster.

Mr. McArthur was one of the first councillors of the new municipality that was formed east of Innisfail. The name of that municipality is Arthur--nearly his name.

Knee Hill Valley's first storekeeper and postmaster was Mr. Wm. Gunston. That district's first government telephone lines came through about 1898, the rate being $2 and $2.50 per month.

In those days it was customary to pay your doctor and minister in goods--cash was so scarce. It might be 1/4 of beef part of a sheep, bags of vegetables--any would be acceptable.

$1 in real cash would buy more groceries than any man could carry home.

Things like sausages and fresh meat came from Calgary on the trains every 2 or 3 days,according to the weather.

Mr. Tom Ellis was the first N.W.M.P. for Innisfail. He wrote a song which was sung at about all the "affairs" in and around town for a long time. (am still trying to find this).

In 1891 the Gillingham Ranch south and west of Innisfail was owned by an Englishman who had been a tea planter and tea taster in Java. His wife was a Japanese Princess. They had two boys and two girls. His wife ate at the table with and like her husband did while he was at home. But if he

were away she had her food served in the parlor on an expensive rug, "just like home in Japan".

Mrs. Gillingham's sister, Mrs. Mattabell, lived there and acted as Mrs. Gilliland (sic)'s housekeeper and helper.

Dances held at "the Spruces" were the main events. In Innisfail there was then a "Quadrille Club" every Wednesday night. All learned to dance and all learned to call off the dances, by turns.

An interesting incident of how hard it was to be sure of money is here given: two boys 11 and 17 years of age raised spuds in the year 1892. They started for Calgary with two loads containing 150 bushels. Had heard potatoes were $1.25 a bushel. These two boys had high hopes of returning to Innisfail as "rich men". A while before that some rich man had "flooded the market" with spuds. These boys could sell to no market; had to stay several days in the city to peddle their precious load from house to house at 35 cents a bushel. Much of their load went for board and room on this long stay so, two boys disappointed and tired, arrived home with some supplies for their winter's keep. They had experience anyway. In Calgary one of the first houses, maybe the very first one, was built where the C.P.R. tracks were to be laid after the survey was taken. That house the Cook's bought, moved Mrs. Cook and her stuff into it until the men could get "started up" out at Innisfail on the farm. The house had to be moved over when the railroad construction gang came along.

During the Riel Rebellion, 1885, people trekked to Calgary. Many camped just north of the town, Poplar Grove, then north of Dodd's Lake. It was and is called "Bannock Hill" because one and all baked bannocks while camped there. It was impossible to bake bread let alone keep it fit to eat while travelling.

The hotel on the north side of the track was closed later. School was kept in that building. Second school, I believe, was what is now Miss Murphey's shop. The third school was a larger one but was cut in two and is still two dwellings in town. The fourth school was where the curling rink is. The firth school is the big brick structure which still does good service for our younger generation. A high school,well equipped, was then built. A credit to any town.

School taxes, in early days, was only $2.50 on a quarter-section.

In April, 1889, Mr. F.M. Rogers came to reside there.

Entertainments in town were more numerous. Some entire evenings were spent learning brass pounding work or wood carving. All these evenings would end with singing, playing on the few musical instruments they owned. Speaking and plays were "put on". Many dances were held.

Several owned kodaks. They took pictures which are valuable now. Mr. Rogers colored many photos, and well done. They are a credit to anyone. They developed their own pictures. Some used their cellar for a "dark room". Some

had a contrivance to make a red light that did the developing with good results. They had glass instead of films. Good artists, at that. Many photos, really treasured, prove that statement.

Pyrography--making small articles, useful and ornamental--was learned. Indian heads, etc. some of them colored.

Basswood was the medium on which they learned "chip carving".

Some costumes at a masquerade were real scrumptuous. Mr. Rogers has a photo of himself in costume as Sir Walter Raleigh. Most natural. He colored it himself. Another of him as one of the 3 muskateers, "real as life" and colored by Mr. Rogers, also. The way that was done: Mr. Roger's brother would pose while Mr. F.M. would get all set with his camera on a tripod, then he, in costume, would stand just where his brother had stood while his brother took his photo. F.M. then developed the pictures and colored them. Real works of art--costumes, photos and coloring.

The men used to fish in winter--cut holes in the ice, put a red cloth on the hook and got pike(fresh water shark)--after they'd dabble hook and red rag up and down. "The fish sure did go for that." The men flung the fish out on the ice and go on fishing for more. The fish would lie on the ice, freeze and curl up. Later, when put in the warm house at home, they'd thaw out and flop around.

Mr. F.M. Rogers has a park for only small children to play in. He planted the evergreen trees. He has a photo of the park when a man could see over those trees. Now the trees are very high. He has pictures taken of children playing on the swings, colored also. Beautiful photos. All these photos are postcard size.

Mr. Rogers took boys to the Mud Lake and taught them to swim and dive. Made rafts and used them.

He has pictures of his choir boys and he as their chor master. He taught them to sing.

Card parties were popular. Progressive cards, at times.

Had societies, clubs, etc. put on birthday parties and serenades. On one occasion, the company went to one home and congratulated the man of the house on his 97 birthday (he may have been 37). They presented him with a bouquet on that occasion which was a bathtub full of stinkweed and other weeds--took two men to carry the "vase".

Sleighing parties, weiner roasts, skating, spelling bees, fishing parties and in the fall held on some farm a pea-hulling bee.

There was that summer resort at Mud Lake where many swam and used the diving board.

Barley was parched for coffee. Made homemade brown bread from the wheat raised right here on farms. Farmers themselves ground the wheat fine and used it to bake with and for porridge.

Meat was moose, partridge and rabbit and it was good.

Breeds lived north of town near Doctor George. They had many horses. And up there, too, Mr. John Thompson had race horses.

One of the oldtimers from east of Innisfail had the misfortune to break her leg while she was alone one day when her husband was away on a business trip to Elnora. All day she lay; pulled a quilt off of the line and put it over herself when it grew cold in the evening. As he did not come, she dragged herself up to the house, lay till rested, then into the house where he found her huddled up at 7 in the evening. She was then taken to a hospital and doctor, miles away, in a lumber wagon. Eventually, the limb was amputated and thus she is yet, alone, for her husband died several years ago. She lives in the town of Innisfail at present. She will be 87 years of age, May 15, 1945. But she still knits socks and mitts for our soldier boys. She is Mrs. John James Innis, a brave lady, to be sure. She does her own work wheeling herself around in a wheelchair.

Spelling bees were enjoyed by all but the "dunces". Someone said, "I always enjoyed being a 'dunce'. I was among the first to go 'down". But I could then enjoy the others' downfall with a relish." And he laughed at the memory of many enjoyable evenings thus spent.

Lacrosse could be and was played in February of one year in Innisfail. Ping-pong was a popular game.

Mr. Sandy Frazer was the first man to make a thatched roof on his house. It is said it was an improvement over the sod and pole roofs.

Mr. Fred Rogers has a novel and artistic arrangement in the finishing of his rooms. He cut out, by scroll work, beautiful designs, scroll designs and with small nails and glue, fastened them in pattern to his ceiling. An all-round design with extra in corners also a beautiful pattern in the center, surrounding the chandalier hook.

Mr. Owen White lived in Cottonwood district in the early days.....there were no bridges, at first. When the Murray Bridge was first built Mr. Owen White and Miss May Miller were the first to cross it. Miss Miller now Mrs. M. Gilgan said it was really quite a thrill. She related one instance when she and Mr. White had crossed the river ford when the water was real high. The boat was riding the waves high and furiously. But since Mr. White had been a sailor for so many years, she felt safe because of the faith she had in his bravery and ability. Miss Miller used to cross the Little Red Deer river to get the mail for the neighborhood. When she had no horse to ride she used to go over in the boat but no matter how stormy nor how high and wrathful the river she was never afraid if she had a good and fearless pilot.

She remembers the first Red Lodge School house being built. Then the first concert tiven there. They all thought it was the best ever given anywhere.

At that time there was no town of Bowden. Her father, Mr. Frederick Miller, was 69 years old when he came here and homesteaded--he and his 5 sons "took up" 6 quarter-sections. He planned well because he had the boys settled all around him. One boys didn't stay for long but went back to the United States later coming out again, however. His sons names were Joseph, George, Jesse, Tony and Fred, the latter being the one who went back to the U.S.A. There were three daughters, I believe: Mrs. Miller, senior, lived (until her death) in the little old log house among the spruces that was her first home in Canada.

Mr. Miller, although 69 years old, walked to Bowden later on to "prove up" his homestead, a distance of 14 miles. When he got there he could procure "no eats". There being no depot, yet, he had to flag the train; he rode to Red Deer to "prove up". In that town he found "eats" and then the whole aspect seemed brighter. He was now an owner of a Canadian farm and felt "independent".

Another time he needed to cross that river before any bridge had been built, so he crossed on the log of an old tree that had conveniently fallen across the river. When he had gone 1/2 way across the river that log decided to "turn the other cheek", rolled over and as a consequence, Mr. Miller had a cold "ducking". There was nothing to do but return home, dry his clothes and the precious cheque he was taking with him to buy much needed groceries. Next day he got Mr. Owen White to row him over in his boat.

Money gotten from the United States had 20% taken off for the exchange was poor.

Another time when Mr. Miller was in Bowden and wanted a meal, he found no place to buy a meal. But one helpful (?) man said, "Well, they are building a hotel up there on the hill." "What a helpful suggestion!" said Mr. Miller to his would be consoler.

When the Murray Bridge did finally materialize Mr. Murray and Representative John A. Simpson had strong influence in getting that one rather than anyone of several other likely crossings.

The only slang in that settlement was "Judas Priest", as recalled.

One family by the name of Sanburn had two sons who herded sheep in Montana each summer but returned to their homesteads here in the winter of each year.

Mrs. Gilgan recalls the hardships the early ministers had making their rounds to visit their church members.

One time in particular, Mr. Murray's "big mad bull" frightened the presbyterian minister's team he was driving to his democrat making them dash away heedless of where they were going. They rushed blindly into a muskeg and became hopelessly stuck in that swamp. The Bowden minister waded out, went back to Mr. and Mrs. Miller's to get help. The Miller boys went with him carrying a shot gun to "pepper the bull" and keep him interested while the others got the team and buggy out of that mire. After that the ministers came

on horseback to "play safe" with all bulls--mad or glad.

Another neighbor was Mr. and Mrs. Bert White. Mr. Bert White was drowned in that Little Red Deer river later on.

Mrs. Gilgan as Miss May Miller was only 16 years of age when she first arrived at Innisfail.

Mrs. Ed. Hartley was an old pioneer of the Little Red Deer District later of Gordon District until her death a few years ago. She told of fording the Little Red Deer river before any bridges were made on it. Those "rainy years" were awful! At one time she had trouble enough crossing it to go to trade her butter and eggs for supplies much needed in the home. The river was high and swift. She went alone with a team and wagon. It rained nearly all day but quit while she was in town so she loaded flour and other groceries and started home. Being hardy and well acquainted with the treacherous Alberta weather in the rainy season, she had taken many quilts and a large canvas along. Well she did, for when she came to the river she saw at once she must not attempt to cross it in the night. Being swift and carrying so many trees and bedris it would be dangerous enough in daylight. So she bravely made camp and took her ease until morning when she went to a bachelor's house nearby to seek shelter from the cold for awhile. He gave her a breakfast and saw to it she crossed that raging river safely. (Later that bachelor became her son-in-law, Mr. Arthur Webb.)

Mr. Arthur Webb and his father, Mr. George Webb, Sr., helped build up this far west country too.

They all tell of the winter 1883-84 being such an open winter. Men made shacks and other improvements around their homes all winter. A certain hotel in Calgary was being built that winter, even masonry work was done.

The presbyterian church was built in Innisfail in 1890, the manse in 1891. Ralph Conner dedicated that church.

In those early days the N.W.M.P. were stationed at the Red Deer Crossing, the present site of Red Deer City.

Millions of dollars out of our fertile districts in produce. Check of no small size have come into our hands. (sic)

Blacksmithing was "going strong" under the able management of J.A. Wilson in 1892, it is stated.

"The Rutledge Farm Tragedy" on June 15, 1921 (as I recall the date) was a bad farm house fire that caused the death of 7 members of the family. Only one girl escaped. that put the "fear of fire" into all of us.

Mrs. E.T. Thurston states she came to our part of the world in 1902. Her daughter, Mrs. Calvert, and her husband live on the farm now while Mrs. Thurston, now a widow, lives in Innisfail. Mr. Calvert met with an accident, having lost one hand. But that brave man farms and seeing him around at his chores you would not believe he had that handicap at all carrying feed and pulling up stooks all winter a few winters ago when we were all snowed in. All farmers found that chore hard work but he did it all that winter.

You can see older men and women carrying on as they did twenty years ago. It will be recalled I just mentioned Mrs. John James Innis with only one leg riding around in her wheeled chair doing her own housework with the help of a man who comes in and does the heavy lifting and carrying. of fuel. She even sits and does her own washing.

I want to add to this list of brave ones who still "carry on". Mrs. Varty who stays in her bed or in her wheel-chair and makes quilts. She knits for soldiers, I believe. She even quilts those quilts in a frame. She and Mr. Varty (deceased) came to Innisfail in October 8, 1891.

Hats off to these old pioneers and many others (who I have not intentionally left out) who are yet doing a full time job in spite of handicaps.

Bravo! Congratulations to these and many other feeble old timers who are carrying on with a smile. Our heroes of the 80's, I call them.

Mrs. Varty came on one of our first trains. She had made a dress for the wife of one of the trainmen. He suggested she come to Innisfail on the price for making that dress. She did. (She has now 8 children and 20 grandchildren.)

Stony Indians were located north of the Big Red Deer river. They were peaceable. They said they were McDougall's Indians.

Another real tragedy occurred west of town on the Big Red Deer river bank. Mr. Stanley Hatch was quarrying stone from the river bank. It is presumed, being hard of hearing,

he did not hear the crashing of the rocks above him as he worked far into the bank. It crushed him to death as it caved in.

In 1901 (some have stated) snow or frost occurred in every month of the year, except July. "A year without a summer" it was called, a damaging frost as late as June 6. Snow didn't go fof the ground until May in 1902. Show came heavily, early winter of 1901, making along, severe winter 1901-02.

The Dick Kremer family came here in 1901 to homestead at Horse Shoe Lake. It took them 9 days to come from Ontario in a "mixed train".

In those early days about the only amusements were fancy balls and masquerades.

Our Kremer brick yard was a success for years. It was in 7 acres of good brickmaking clay. Good brick, yellow clay on top--very good potter's clay underneath that.

West and Rankin had about the first store carrying about everything. Later was and is known as G.W. West & Son General Department store.

There is at the Province office a photo of the "Old Methodist Church" with our Main Street only a lane between trees. It was built in 1896 by Sing & McKay. That church burned down and in its place now stands a substantial brick structure, a credit to any town.

They also have a photo of the Innisfail Fall Show in 1898 showing the first house built in our town and the first depot, water tank for the C. & E. railroad and the first fair grounds and etc. The latter was where Mr. Pidgeon's Feed and Flour Mill now stands (or thereabouts).

Mr. E.J. Dodd came to our town in 1899 as a boy from Halton, Ontario. He became postmaster here in January 1, 1907, and has faithfully filled that position up to the present day.

Mr. George Kirkham came to Innisfail from Perth, Ontario, in 1900. He was a carpenter and builder. His sons, George and Thomas were associated with him. They included bricklaying and plastering and many substantial buildings of our town show their lasting qualities of their handiwork. Mr. George K., Sr., was a member of the school board.

Mr. Wm. Hodge, father of Wm., Hugh, and Chas. Hodge and their sister, Kate, was the proprietor of a general store.

In 1906, Mr. McArthur had a furniture store with an undertaking business in connection.

Mr. P.T. Goulter had a hardware store. Sold out to N.H. Briggs and J.F. Rogers.

Soil in all this district as a rule is black vegetable mould (humus) from 9 to 13 inches in depth with a clay subsoil reaching down to 6 to 12 feet.

Hay, grain, alfalfa, coarse grains, wood grasses, good water, building stone (a short distance from town)

coal deposits were the "natural resources" in those early days for our town.

Miss A. Simpson, first and only lady druggist in all of Alberta, for one year, was situated in Innisfail.

Miss Moyer had a small millinery store in a part of Stewart's Department store but later Miss McDermott opened the first millinery store in 1902.

In those early days the stage coach which passed through from Calgary to Edmonton and return, stopped at Napoleon and near what was later named Napoleon's Lake. That was our mail center at that time.

"In those days there was no upper crust" among neighbors. No lower crust. No in-between either. All alike! All friendly and helpful! As it should be.

When this hustling little town of 200 or 300 citizens was only one year old, 1892, it organized an Agricultural Society. The meeting held in the little 12 x 16 ft. school house, was so full of enthusiasm "it went over with a bang" as one expressed it. The first show was held in October, 1893, with its President, C. Sproat; Secretary, C.G. Ross; Treasurer, George Constantine, "pushing for a success". It was all they had hoped for, a success.

Our thrifty little town in those days was known in all the British Isles and over Canada and the United States to the south of us. It being in the heart of all this rich country, promised to be a good mixed farming country. Also in the heart of rural beauty, one of the best in Alberta,

with plenty of lakelets, streams, beautiful scenery, and wonderful groves.

This district began what has proven to be many substantial business houses and prosperous farms. They, even then, exported livestock, butter, poultry and cheese. They imported valuable herd stock both horses and cattle, later hogs and sheep. Had good poultry stock.

Our first Agricultural Society had 114 members. "Money was conspicuous by its absence." A permit, dated March 21, 1892, was obtained for its introduction and the "Imperial Agricultural Society" was the result. The total income for the first year of its life was $231.55 made up as follows:-

Government grant.....	$100.00
Membership subscriptions.....	114.00
Admission fees.....	17.55
Expenditures.....	159.38

and the Society finished its first year with a balance of $72.17.

The first snow-mobile that was recorded as passing through Innisfail was Tuesday, February 20, 1925.

The first jeep to pass through Innisfail and to "park" awhile on our Main Street was one Saturday morning about Sept. 3, 1942. We decided that comfort was a minor consideration of the manufacturers.

Our first Municipal Hospital was built in 1926. A worthy institution in any town.

Mr. Newsham tells of whiskey bottles being put in between logs in barns to admit light, instead of buying costly window glass. "Good, too," he says.

Mrs. Harry Scott, Sr. came over on the "Parisian" a worthy boat. It was one of the "Allan Line". She was then Miss Alice E. Dobson.

Mr. Harry Scott is said to have owned the first grain binder. Also first car in the Little Red Deer district.

The strong man of Little Red Deer district was a Mr. Meyers, one of their school teachers. I am told he is a member of the Alberta Provincial Department of Agriculture at this date.

One of Mr. John Brown's cows became almost buried when a straw pile tumbled over onto her. Mr. Meyers pulled that cow right out of there by one hind leg and her tail. My narrator was his admirer.

One famous son of Little Red Deer district is Mr. Robert Sinclair, the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, at Edmonton. His esteemed parents learned to farm and raise purebred cattle in Little Red Deer district.

Horsepower was the method of threshing after the flail became inadequate.

The first male teacher for Little Red Deer school was Mr. Garbutt in 1900. He founded the Garbutt Business College of Calgary. It has been a successful college

with nearly 200 students at present.

In 1902 we had wind stackers. Later, straw carriers and men cut the bands. Mostly steam engines, then Mr. John Brown was the proud owner of nearly the first steam engine and thresher to come our way. The engine was used, in winter, for custom chopping of grain. All took their grain to be chopped to his house. He took some grain for his pay-money was scarce.

Cattle on the range necessitated the branding of all stock before turning out on open range with others. Two of our Little Red Deer citizens have these for their brand: Mr. Harry Scott, Sr., a dulap on breast.; Mr. Scarlett, a dulap on the cheek.

In 1895 a bear was shot near our town, Innisfail.

During the Calgary Stampede in 1901 the Duke of York visited Alberta. We have a photo of him then.

Photos of a barn and shack on a homestead brings back memories of years of the worst hardships of our lives as well as the happiest years of our lives. Happy because of the equality of all--no class, no clique.

Many times we saw a "red coat" (a N.W.M.P.) coming over the plains and all were glad. He brought the "news" from"the outside" as we called it. No gossip, mind you, but candid telling of the most interesting events taking place all around us. He knew we were "hungry" for a message as he could give it.

The Aldens of Big Bend District came in April 25, 1902.

They lived in town in winters and on the farm in summers. There were 3 children. One son, Harry and his sister still run the farm. They arrived in April but the last of July, the first 2 ladies came to visit the Aldens. It was Mrs. Bateman and her daughter who "stopped off" when Mr. Bateman took the cream to Markerville.

The young people had choir practice, home to home singing "bees".

The Aldens came from Alden, Iowa. Their great grandfather founded Alden, Iowa.

The Big Bend people held church at the Bateman home every 2 weeks with Rev. Chas. Bailey, a student minister. The alternate Sunday, Sunday School was held at the Alden home.

The ministers were students, splendid young men.

Rev. Lonsdale now preaches at Banff United Church.

Rev. McCall another, now teaches at St. Stephen's Church of Edmonton.

Reb. Scott went on a mission boat for years. Later, on the Atlantic.

When they built the church at Markerville, ministers came from there to Big Bend.

Later, when a church was built in the town of Innisfail they came out from there.

The costumes of the ladies were practical and were just as nice as now. Sunbonnets were much in vogue. Their feet were small--2 to 5 size for shoes.

The Alden home grounds are laid out beautifully and usefully. Spruce and pines planted in rows making a nice design of the grounds around the house.

Mr. John Alden was an Englishman who came over to the United States in the "Mayflower".

The Simpsons in town and the Aldens were often at each other's homes. Choir practice and entertainments were liked by both families.

Mr. Joseph Smith, lovingly called "Holy Joe", preached at Big Bend school often and was much respected by all.

All neighbors were helpful. Exchanged during hard work.

Mr. Frank Malcom, Jr., drove a dog team the 6 miles to Innisfail town school. Mr. Frank Malcolm, Sr., was the first carpenter and built many houses and stores in town.

There were wild linx and an occasional bear.

The flood in 1915 nearly washed out the bridge. Water raged over all the low land on either side of river.

The Malcoms have many Indian relics. There is an Indian grave on their farm. They have some pemmican showing berries, the fibres of meat, saskatoon berries, real red berries with the blossom end on some, proving they were saskatoons for sure.

Frank Malcolm trapped in winter and does yet.

The Indian trails show there on their farm yet. The shelter of the trees near the flowing waters of the Big Red Deer river and to be among the hills suited the Indians, admirably.

There was a snow storm in May once, the sheep and lambs lay out in it; in the morning there was a queer shape where each sheep lay, because the lamb or lambs lay right on top of the mother sheep. Frank, Jr. has a photo of that like this:
all covered with snow, lambs on sheep and all. He has a photo of himself and dogteam he drove too. Yet, one winter, he had a photo taken of him in shirt sleeves, during February. He showed me a photo of "Lassie" his lead dog.who lived to be 14 years of age. She seemed almost human. People loved their horses and dogs then. When "Lassie" died she whined for talking, so human, in her suffering.

Frank, Jr., possesses a ring (?) with the picture of the present large postoffice of Innisfail on it in colors made in Germany in 1906. Junior had his first sheep when he was 10 years old and has had sheep ever since. He now has a nice flock. The Malcolm's had the first Southdown sheep around here and now have the first Rambeleighs sheep. The ram there, now, isone of the latter breed and is a very large big-horned sheep. Junior sheared sheep when very young and does yet. Quite an authority on raising sheep and shearing.

No fences in those early days caused farmers much trouble searching for stock especially milk cows each morning and evening. One time Malcolms found their cows near Pemhold.

Mr. Malcolm, Sr., has lived in every state of the Union.

Mrs. Hugh Ross was about the second woman out here, at least very early.

In 1911 Innisfail sent an exhibit to Calgary. They exhibited grain in sheaf, grass and forage crops, also flowers, fruits, vegetables and seed grains all gotten together and sent away in the space of 24 hours. It was all sent in the care of Wm. Edgar, was crated by Geo. Kirkham. All at the invitation of Calgary Fair Association. One of our first teachers at Big Bend School was Matthew Haltain, now C.B.C. broadcaster and correspondent.

In the late years, Jan. 28, 1926(quote from an old copy of the "Innisfail Province") "The oldtimers had a banquet which was announced by the ringing of a loud cowbell. Do you remember could be heard at almost any time during the banquet--all was kept 'western' and 'olden'.

"There was an ample but simple menu: The head table was decorated with a complete set of ranch buildings:- house, corralls, squeezes, bunkhouse, stables, wagons, sleighs, mowers, rakes, etc.

Those models were all correct in every detail. They were built and contributed by Mr. Angus Anderson of the McPherson coulee.

The dances at that banquet were quadrilles, waltzes, two-steps, minutes, jerseys--all the old-time popular dances."

The Big Bend district was so named because its location in the rich farming district right in a big bend of the Big Red Deer river. Well named.

The Sullivan family came to the Big Bend district and homesteaded in 1890. Mr. Sullivan was from Cork, Ireland, as was his wife. They bought pre-emptions for $1.25 a quarter in that district. They were ranchers--had Herefords from the Collicut Ranch "down south". Came from California in a covered wagon driving Montana bronchos. Raised hundreds of chickens. Found pemmican on their farm.

The first postmaster of the first post office near them was Mr. John Bjornsson who came with the Sullivans on their long trek from California.

Mr. Sullivan was secretary treasurer of the Big Bend school. He ordered the lumber saw to the building of that school. Being 6 or 8 miles from the settlement of Markerville they lived on the daily mail route to that post office. Had a mail box at their gate.

Had to ford the Big Red Deer river for years until a bridge was built finally. Many times the river was flooded at which times the waters were high and swift.

The Indian sweatbaths (spoken of elsewhere) rocks for same and other reminders of Indian living are here near the Sullivan home (ranch) and near this famous Medicine River.

Money was so scarce. Barter was the only system of exchange.

One sheep hide sold for 25 cents to a man driving miles and miles with an ox team to Calgary. "The trip wasn't one-half so bad after I got that cushion," he told me.

Mr. Cook, Jr. and Mr. Malcolm, Sr., hauled coal from the Red Deer mines to the town of Innisfail.

Cream, butter and hay were the main standbys for cash. Taken to Calgary for exchange for food supplies. Print was 35 cents a yard. Needles 25 cents a package. One woman complained at that. "Why, we can buy them "at home" for 5 cents a package, that is too much." The clerk closed that argument: "But think of the freight!"

The formal establishment of an educational system was not accomplished till 1885.

In the early days, 1890, 3 men, F.M. Rogers, Tom Bluff and Harry Cooke drove to Calgary. There were 2-1/2 feet of snow when they left here May 24, 1890.

Stopping places north of Calgary were:

1. John Stevenson's Stopping Place--22 miles north of Calgary.
2. Chamberlain's--16 miles north of No. 1.
3. Scarlett's--6 miles north of No. 2.
4. Kenley's--10 miles north of No. 3.
5. Lone Pine--east of Bowden with John Langley as proprietor.
6. Poplar Grove--Innisfail, later.

"The Innisfail Province" came into being in 1908 when on September 10 the last copy of the "Free Lance" was put out and the new owner, Mr. George R. Westland took over under the new name. Mr. J.A. McIntosh was the owner of the "Free Lance". The 2 installed into one paper. It was $1 a year.

In that same copy Miss Simpson had her advertisement specializing in 13 different kinds of spices. She called her store "The Quality store".

"Mr. E.F. Ludlum, Real Estate agent, Land $8 to $12.50 an acre."

"Mr. H. McDermott, jeweller, agent for the Singer Sewing Machine."

"3--Hill Valley Fair, Wednesday, October 7, 1908, admission 25 cents,--children under 14 years of age, free. $750 prize money offered."

"The 17th Anniversary of the Presbyterian Church. Rev. W.G. Brown, Pastor."

"Methodist Church Anniversary and Harvest Home Services held November 1 and 2--1908."

"1908 the government gang for the Telephone Company are in the locality to put in government telephones east and west of Innisfail."

"A carload of sheep was shipped from Markerville through Innisfail."

"A bear of 3 cubs seen near town."

An ad. for Mrs. Playle's oil paintings was in it.

"Eclipse Studio, W. Playle, Photographer, Innisfail and Olds."

"Twin Livery Barns, Frank Anderson, Proprietor."

"H.A. Malcolm, auctioneer, commissioner for affidavits."

"A great suit sale. All our high class tailored suits, 20th Century Brand, $15. Regular suits $10 J.K. McMillan."

Good building stone was to be had in the Grahamston district. The Grahamston school, east of town was all built of stone from that district and the stone in the formation and cellar of Dr. George's house was also brought from the Grahamston district.

Mr. Harry Cooke helped put the railroad from Calgary to Red Deer a distance of 100 miles, all work done by horses. If they didn't keep ahead of the steel gang--but they did do it and surely hustled to do it by fall of 1900. The station was put in at Poplar Grove in 1901 and the name was change by the Calgary and Edmonton railroad to Innisfail.

Chas. Ross, a scotchman, owned the "Model Farm" as he called it, north of town; the place was known as "The Spruces". He had students there from England, Scotland and Ireland and taught them how to farm. Five of his students' names were:-

Walter Carter--Scotch (later homesteaded here)

Teddy Carloss--English

Sandy Walker--Scotch

Charles Fleming--Scotch

Percy Townsend--Irish.

Mr. Ross had these five students on his "Model Farm"; Mr. Ross had only 5 acres broken yet he taught these five to farm there.

Mr. Kemp built a log livery barn which is still in existance out on Mr. Hanford's farm, having been moved from town, years ago. Mr. Hanford's farm is just at the edge of town to the north east.

Mr. Cook, Sr., drove to Calgary. A blizzard came up while they were on their way. He met twenty men walking north from Calgary at the Johnson Stevenson Stopping Place, 22 miles north of Calgary. All but three turned back and went to Calgary with Mr. Cook, Sr., Wanted to ride but "No! Horses have it bad enough. The blizzard will take you along fast enough if you will but raise your feet up." It was at their backs. Mr. Cook had to go on in the blizzard for his family up here was very short of supplies. He'd be ready then to start back home as soon as the blizzard stopped. Blizzards in those days usually lasted three days and that one did.

Those three men who came on north did so after the blizzard subsided. They had become "snowblind" so by the time they could travel north again their eyes were much better. The names of the three tireless, sturdy pioneers were: John Dodd, Wm. Champ and Arthur Bioletti.

Frost was one of our worst enemies, in those "wet years". Land was so wet in the spring one could scarcely get onto the land to work it up for seeding, which was done by hand--broadcast, then harrowed in. Crops were then taken out bt mower or sythe. It was gathered up and bound by hand into sheaves and stooked.

Out west Dickson was settled in 1904. Mr. Andrew Larsen came in 1905.

Too much rain. No bridges. Hard to get to town. Transportation almost impossible. Hard to ford the Medicine River and the Big Red Deer river.

In spring even the creeks were too high to ford them.

Mr. Andrew Larsen in 1938 ran an Illustration Farm just north of Dickson and did for four years. People in the Dickson District wanted such a farm and chose the Larsen farm as ideal--low land, medium and high land. The low land, when drained was good to test out different forage crops. The medium high land for grain. This was a government controlled farm. They tested different kinds of crops and grasses to choose the best for the Dickson farmers to use.

On the low lands they tried grasses and forage crops. The government furnished everything and all seed. All kinds of grain was tried on the medium and high land. Had small plots, especially cared for, took small samples to the government. Tried different kinds of fertilizer--to see which do best with or without fertilizer on grains. Government kept a record of different results.

The government furnished no garden or flower seeds.

There were rows and rows of shelter belt trees, but in the four years no results to report. (Since then, am told, trying nursery stock.) Mr. John Sandberg has run the place since 1942, the Larsens having moved to town to live.

The government furnished purebred pigs. Sent out best of baby chicks each spring of the Barred Rock breed.

Government furnished and sent out Registered seed grain and grass seed, also. A good undertaking to have in any district.

The Simpson's came with cattle and "calf wagon" from Manitoba in 1900.

They found the saskatoon berries very plentiful all around here. There was a waif, an orphan boy with them. They would not eat the saskatoon berries for fear they were poison. That boy offered to eat them. If he did not die the berries could not be poison. He, boy fashion, had a "good fill" several times. Needless to say some were put away for winter and all had lots to eat all autumn.

Innisfail Province, date (?)

JOSEPH SMITH LAID TO REST

The United church on Friday afternoon November 3rd was crowded to the doors with friends who had gathered to pay their last respects to the late Joseph Smith who passed away at the Innisfail Hospital on Tuesday, October 31st., at the age of 91 years.

Rev. Robert Simons pastor of the United Church conducted the service and most appropriately took as his text: "Well done thou good and faithful servant," and paid high tribute to the deceased as a good Christian churchman and a good Christian citizen.

Rev. Lyttle of Calgary a co-worker with Mr. Smith in the Bible Society assisted with the service.

The pallbearers were Messrs. Richard Whiteside, Haslam Marshall, Robert Morris, A.M. Fry, W. Kennings, J. Laidler.

Stephen's Funeral Home had charge of the funeral arrangements.

Among those present at the funeral was John F. Wilkinson of Camrose, Mr. Smith's oldest nephew. He leaves to mourn his death his wife living at Innisfail. There were no children and Mr. Smith was the last male of his family.

The late Mr. Smith was born at Wildon Grange, Yorkshire, England, on May 12th, 1853. As a young man he farmed and made such a name for himself as a successful farmer that in 1893 he was sent to Canada to look over the country with a view to seeing in just how far Canada would be a suitable place for settlement of farmers. He returned to England in 1894 and made his report and later came back to Canada locating at Red Deer. In 1898 Mr. Smith started his farming operations in this country locating on the Bouteyre Ranch which is about one mile east of the present Westholm school.

On January 5, 1898, he married Margaret Kendrew of Edwell district where her two brothers Charles and Joseph Kendrew still reside.

Mr. Smith was quite successful in his farming operations and in 1911 was one of the first families of the district to introduce power farming equipment. In 1918 he retired from farming and moved into Innisfail but in 1921 he returned to his farm and it was not until 1926 that he finally settled in Innisfail where he had resided up to the time of his death.

Mr. Smith had always been a very sincere churchman, a Methodist, and later connected with the United Church. He

was active both in Church and Sunday School and took a keen interest in the Bible Society. He had charge of the adult bible class of Innisfail United Church for many years and has a wide circle of young men and women who held him in the highest regard because of their association with him in church and Sunday school work.

While not seeking political honors he was a staunch Liberal and kept himself posted on the current political and world events.

He had enjoyed fair health practically up to the time of his death and had been "about town", about a week before the end came.

Mr. George E. Bryan was station agent of the C. & E. here, then farmed just east of town for years.

Innisfail Province: "When Innisfail was working under the village ordinance, Mr. Bryan held the position of overseer for several terms and many of the permanent improvements of (our) town may be placed to his credit. He also served on the town council and school board for several years. He was in the lumber business, was an auctioneer and was an all-round good citizen of English extract."

Another interesting spot west of Innisfail, across the Big Red Deer bridge, is the place where the Indians from far and wide came to take their "sweat baths".

The Indians still think the old Indian stories of healing power in the waters of the Medicine River are ture. I heard it discussed, one evening, thus, by an old-timer:

"Mr. .....arrived at the place in the very early days, of an Indian encampment. It was late evening. The men who had run all day hunting were about to take their sweat baths. The squaws had made a kind of tent of bended willows. The outside was nearly circular. These two squaws had made this one for only two men--their braves. It was about 15 feet in circumference and about 3 feet high. They had lain their buffalo and cowskins over it and had placed dirt and rocks on the edtes to keep it down and keep the heat in tent.

We wondered what the fire outside was filled with stones. But soon saw the squaws pick up hot stones in a kind of tongs made of the branches of a stout willow. They put these hot stones in a pile in the center of the tent (bathhouse). Then two naked Indians immerged from their own two teepees and ran to the bath house each carrying a small basin of water from the Medicine River.

They sat in there and occasionally threw a little water on the stones to create steam. That steam put the Indians into a profuse perspiration.

They remained in that place for a full hour. As they came forth from their sweat bath one plunged into the cool, flowing waters of the Medicine river which was near the "bathroom". The other had his squaw plunge a pail of cold water over him. "She had gotten the water from the Medicine river while he was in the tent.) Then, they both rubbed themselves well over and briskly with snow."

One unaccustomed to such heat could not stand that sweat bath one half hour.

The Indians claim they do this in order that their limbs may become more supple and they more alert and fast running to catch the wild animals they are hunting to kill. They think sweats are a good remedy for almost all ills.

They feel so much better;they claim the water from the Medicine river did it.

The stone piles and some willow arches out there, yet, can be plainly taken as proof of all this.

Beside the Medicine there used to be much Sennaca root, a root much used by the Indians for medicine, too. (None found there now.)

From: "History of Alberta" 1912.

Our first representative in the government of the North West Territories was Mr. John A. Simpson: came to Innisfail when only the grading for a railroad had reached this place. He was born in County Peel, Ontario, on August 20, 1854. When 4 years of age his parents moved to Bruce County, Ontario, where he later attended the public schools until he was 16 years of age, afterward taking a commercial course.

He became a carpenter until 1879 when he came west to County of Russel, Manitoba, where he homesteaded for awhile. But finding his farm was 50 miles from the new railroad put through sold his farm for what taxes were then due and moved to the village of Shellmont, Manitoba, where he

engaged as foreman for the firm of Mitchell & Bucknell and built saw and grist mills for them. He remained there four years. Then he and Robert Murray, Walter Charles, James Langford and the Copley Bros., started for Calgary, with 300 head of cattle and horses. All owned the herd. Mr. Simpson's share being 49 head. That was May 28, 1890, when they started. It took them two months arriving in Calgary July 28, 1890.

They camped for the winter at the present site of Olds. They cut grass for hay for the feed for winter, also.

In spring of 1891 Mr. Simpson moved on to Innisfail leaving the other boys there.

In January, 1892, he opened up a lumber yard. That and his carpenter went well, hand in hand.

In 1892 he brought his family to Innisfail by rail.

In 1894 Mr. Simpson was elected to the North West Territory Assembly which then met at Regina. He remained in this legislative body as long as it existed. When the provinces were formed he was elected to the first legislative assembly of the Province of Alberta from the District of Innisfail. He was yet the Deputy Speaker and Member of Parliament for Alberta in 1912.

He was on the first Town Council of the Town of Innisfail.

He married Miss Anna Proudfoot of Ontario--they had 5 children.

Respected far and wide for his sterling qualities.

One woman "took orders" for dried fruits and then sent to California for them: dried apples, prunes, apricots. We thought ourselves rich, right in clover when we could serve California fruits on our tables.

Some times as many as twenty-four men had to be fed in one little shack at threshing time or other "bees".

One man was popular at all entertainments for his "solos". He would "stand up in front" with his hands hidden in his long coat sleeves, swing his arms and sing, keeping time by tapping his foot loudly. He'd learn poetry from a newspaper, magazine or book and then sing the words he knew so perfectly to a tune he'd make up as he proceeded. Or was it a time? Laugh, we surely did. He created much mirth for us all.

One hail storm in the night will always be remembered by "All Districts", says many. It dented boards one-half inch, broke all windows it could reach, spoiled roofs, killed and injured much stock. It really frightened all. Hail stones broke one window and dented a sewing machine sitting just inside. (I saw those dents in that machine yet.)

The Wood's Christian Home for children was begun here. In summer they had tents in the yard for sleeping. It then located at Olds and has been out by Bowness Park, Calgary, for years. It started here with nine children only whom the Wood's loved and cared for, like their own.

That house was, later, the first hospital for Innisfail. Drs. Wagner and Turner's private hospital. Miss Logan was first matron of it. Miss McGilvary now Mrs. Frank West,

was a one time matron there also.

Mr. Maybank, druggist of Olds, had a Sunday school class out at Big Bend at one time.

Frank Malcolm's uncle went to dances with his violin and played for them. He had come from California with four horses and a covered wagon.

Mr. and Mrs. Angus McKay of Little Red Deer district came in 1910 from Sutherlandshire, Scotland, with a family of twelve children. Mr. McKay and Georgina have gone on before but all the others are living. Mrs. McKay lives in town and celebrated her 80th birthday on Sunday, Oct. 8. When Mr. and Mrs. McKay celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, all the family were there. The two have gone since then.

In 1885, Sandy Frazer gave a great spread to all.

James, John and Isabella Brown, Alf. Carter, Seagraim, Jack and Pat Miller, from the Stopping Place and others were all there. A great spread was set out. One big partridge for each plate. A monster plum pudding in a dishpan were items on the menu.

Sandy played the violin and dancing naturally followed.

Mr. Nat. Wright homesteaded in the Little Red Deer district. Mr. Moses Wildman, Chas. Bridgeman, Wm. McCormack and L.M. Sage came about same time. Mr. Sage was connected with the Lumber and Milling Co. that was located north of Big River where Cash City post office was.

In 1887 two Frenchmen came, Remillard and Content, and built a log house on the "Big Trail". This was later the residence of Mr. Fred Archer, now the home of Mr. Manuel.

The lake just west of town near our rifle range was "Lake Napoleon" for Napoleon Remillard.

(Mr. Content went east of Red Deer City and founded the town, now "Content, Alberta".)

The locking of a door was not thought of and petty thieving had not yet introduced itself.

1888: Two stage coaches were running, one leaving Calgary and the other leaving Edmonton, on Monday, arriving Thursday--four days to make the trip of 200 miles. Fare was $25, meals extra. Meals consisted of sow's belly, soda biscuits, tea or coffee.

The sleeping accommodations at the Stopping Places were limited and often when ladies were present a portion of the room was curtained off with blankets so as to form "My Lady's Chamber".

Winter of 1888 and 1889 was fairly mild. Sleigh runners rode on top of coach all winter till part of March and part of April, when the wheels took the "ups".

Prairie fires were dreaded and took a great deal of toll. Blizzards, too, were feared. About 1890 (?) Mr. Joe Harbison was lost in a blizzard on the 27th of Sept. and although search parties scoured the country his remains were not found until the end of the following January. He was

wrapped in his saddle blanket. His horse was tied to a willow close by him. Both had frozen to death, there. He was found only 13 miles from his home.

The sign, "General Merchants" is still discernable on the Constantine house now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Kressell.

Dominion Day in 1891 was celebrated on the hill now known as Dodd's Hill.

The very first station agent was the well known Johnny Duffy. Later, George Bryan filled that office.

The train service was erratic. Sometimes it took one whole day to travel from Calgary to Red Deer.